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1 March 1985

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

- Revolution Anniversary Marked by Armenian Prelacy
(Tabriz Domestic Service, 11 Feb 85)..... 1

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

- Status of Arabicization Efforts Reviewed
(Rashid Khashana; AL-TADAMUN, 26 Jan-1 Feb 84)..... 2

EGYPT

- Commentator Discusses Reagan's Potential for Independent Policy
(Editorial; AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH, 23 Jan 85).... 5

- Observer Deplores Confusing Description of Mubarak's Travel Plans
(Editorial, Salar Muntasir; AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH
AL-DUWALIYAH, 21 Jan 85)..... 11

- Opposition, Government Discuss Repairs to Mosque
(Mahmud Mu'awwad, et al.; AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH
AL-DUWALIYAH, 27 Jan 85)..... 13

- Foreign Currency Exchange Case Reviewed
(AL-MAJALLAH, 12-18 Jan 85)..... 15

LIBYA

- Journalist Describes al-Qadhdhafi and His Residence
(Imad-al-Din Adib; AL-MAJALLAH, 23-29 Jan 85)..... 21
- General Conference Proposes Law on Local Security
(AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, 4 Jan 85)..... 25

MOROCCO

- Jewish Member of Parliament Discusses Peace Hopes
(Johana Ohana Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 2-8 Feb 85)..... 31

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

LEBANON

- Deputy Albert Mansur Praises Syrian Role in Lebanon
(Albert Mansur Interview; TISHRIN, 21 Nov 84)..... 35
- Amal Official Reviews Political Situation, Relations With Syria
(Ghassan al-Sablani Interview; TISHRIN, 3 Dec 84)..... 41

SYRIA

- Benefits of al-Khabur Dam Discussed
(Adil Hadidi; TISHRIN, 25 Nov 84)..... 46
- Electricity Statistics Reviewed From 1979 to Present
(Shadiyah al-Barudi; TISHRIN, 25 Nov 84)..... 50

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- Clandestine Radio Reports on Secret Police Activities
(Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, 12 Feb 85).... 55
- Mobile Force Ambushed by Mujahidin
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 27 Jan 85)..... 56
- Briefs
- Herat Under Mujahidin Control 58
- Plot Against Karmal 58

INDIA

Gandhi 15 Jan Speech to Congress-I MP's Reported (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Jan 85).....	59
New Special Assistant to Prime Minister Appointed (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 4 Jan 85).....	62
Press Reports Efforts To Solve Punjab Problem (THE STATESMAN, 4 Jan 85; THE HINDU, 4, 7 Jan 85).....	65
Special Panel Appointed Way Around Anandpur Sahib, by G. K. Reddy Activities of Panel, by G. K. Reddy	
Army Chief of Staff Reviews Army Day Parade (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Jan 85).....	69
Reporter Notes Composition of New Lok Sabha (V. S. Maniam; THE STATESMAN, 4 Jan 85).....	72

IRAN

Tehran Comments on Iraqi Threats (Tehran Domestic Service, 10 Feb 85).....	75
Qasemlu Evaluates Kurdish Resistance, Other Related Matters (LE MONDE, 9 Feb 85).....	77
Country's Export Trends During Mar-Sep 84 Analyzed (SOBH-E AZADEGAN, 16 Dec 84).....	80
Regime Said To Be in Quest of Ending Political Isolation (London KEYHAN, 31 Jan 85).....	87
Iran Presented as 'Biggest Buyer of Junk in World' (Mohammad Reza Torabi; London KEYHAN, 31 Jan 85).....	91
Iranian Delegation in AAPSO Conference Criticizes Regime (National Voice of Iran, 7 Feb 85).....	99
NVOI Assails Repression by Clerical Regime (National Voice of Iran, 14 Feb 85).....	101

PAKISTAN

TI Leader Urges Postponing Partyless Elections (DAWN, 30 Jan 85).....	103
JUI Leader Talks About Election Boycott (Irshad A. Arif; JANG, 31 Jan 85).....	104

New Faces Seen Likely To Dominate Parliament (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 23 Jan 85).....	106
Code of Ethics Specifies Candidates' Qualifications (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 23 Jan 85).....	108
Elections: Islamization Process Said Major Issue (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 23 Jan 85).....	111
Planning Minister Offers Mid-Year Assessment of Economy (DAWN, 30 Jan 85).....	113
Concern Expressed Over Trade Deficit (Editorial; PAKISTAN TIMES, 2 Feb 85).....	116

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY MARKED BY ARMENIAN PRELACY

GF111840 Tabriz Domestic Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] A magnificent ceremony was held yesterday by the Armenian national prelacy in Tehran on the occasion of the 9th day of the 10 days of dawn and the anniversary of the revolution's victory. During the ceremony His Holiness Archbishop Ardak Manukian, leader of the Armenian diocese in Tehran, delivered an address in which he congratulated the Iranian people on the anniversary of the revolution, noted their struggle against the pressures and threats of the superpowers and pointed out the active participation of the Armenians in the reconstruction of Iran along with their Muslim sisters and brothers.

The messages of two Iranian-Armenian deputies were also read during the ceremony which pointed out the struggles of the Armenians against evil in the past and noted that in the 6 years after the victory of the revolution the Armenians along with various classes of the Iranian people have never spared any efforts or sacrifice in the cities and battlefields and will never spare any effort in the future for the freedom of Iran and in striking at the aggressors.

CSO: 4605/103

ALGERIA

STATUS OF ARABICIZATION EFFORTS REVIEWED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 26 Jan-1 Feb 84 p 19

[Article by Rashid Khashana: "After President Chadli Bendjedid's Renewed Supervision of the Meetings of the Higher Council for Language: Arabicization Is a Political Battle and Resoluteness Is the Word"]

[Text] The coming period will witness in Algeria an intense concentration on the popularization of the usage of the Arabic language. This concentration will be reflected in clear political terms by the arabicization of the press of the "ruling" National Liberation Front Party and in making answerable a number of national and local organizations which have fallen short in implementing the Arabicization plan set for them. In this manner an Algerian source summarized the situation to AL-TADAMUN. The source is close to those who produced the resolution, symbols of the coming period in the area of arabicization which is going beyond an educational and cultural matter to become a political matter of great importance.

The source commented upon the popularization of the use of the national language in 1975 with examples of some striking about-faces in some areas with regards to arabicization, such as voter cards, drivers licenses, and grey cards which have been written in French though they had once been written in Arabic. In this vein informed sources, who have followed the policy of the government in this area closely as well as the speech of President Chadli Bendjedid in the meeting of the Higher Council for National Language, which was concluded in December 1984, have noticed important indications concerning the position of the government towards arabicization in 1985 and the reflections of this position in the political area. The Algerian president observed that some institutions have delayed or stopped the application of the arabicization plan in mid-course, affirming that this type of behavior is "unacceptable no matter what the excuse or justification." He announced that the coming months would witness the holding of assessment meetings in which measures would be taken against the institutions and those responsible who do not stick to the policy of the government in the area of the popularization of the use of the national language.

Observers in the Algerian capital indicate that the supervision of the Algerian president himself of the meetings of the Higher Council for National Language rather than party officials and government officials is a sign of

the importance which the Algerian leadership places on the issue of arabicization and it is a sign of its resolution to implement a firm policy with regards to offenders in 1985.

This intense concern for arabicization dates back to the beginning of the 1980's when the exceptional conference of the National Liberation Front Party, which debated and resolved the first 5-year plan for development, resolved to incorporate the popularization of the Arabic language in the annual development plan and to consider it as important as the rest of the resolved upon economic operations.

Then the Higher Council for National Language was formed, headed by Mouloud Kassem Nait Belkacem, the former minister and one of the well known zealots who pushed the arabicization issue. This council prepared the institution of an organized, coordinated plan for arabicization, and it possesses a complete network of associations both on a central and local level which are concerned with the supervision of field work and following up on field work "on the natural order." An official presidential proclamation was recently issued which appointed a permanent official in every sector on a central level whose duty is to popularize arabicization.

However, some administrations and central organs appear cautious in adopting the arabicization plan. The Algerian president mentioned in his speech before the Higher Council for National Language that he is annoyed with the "lack of responsiveness by some central organizations on the arabicization effort."

Informed sources have told AL-TADAMUN that the concentration will be carried out through an arabicization campaign directed toward leadership centers in the coming period and toward authorities which have a direct relationship with the citizen and training institutions such as the National School for Management. A review will be made of the programs of these institutions so as to concentrate upon training in the Arabic language. Higher circles are also planning for coordination between educational and training institutions and employment institutions, and that is because the weak link in the Algerian arabicization plan is the lack of basic cooperation between neighboring educational institutions and the work place which is not totally arabized.

Economic and work place institutions explain their opposition to the Arabic language and to Arabic speaking cadres by saying that "Arabic is not a computer language." This is commonly heard among cadres and owners of institutions who received a French education either in Algeria or in Europe. On the other side speaking on behalf of the Liberation Front Party, AL-MUJAHID has attacked these persons, saying that "they have sucked on foreign milk and they were raised in the shadow of imported culture, and they assure us that we cannot extract ourselves from scientific and technological backwardness except by cutting our ties with our past and our heritage because they are tied to backwardness, and we should grasp modern knowledge with its own modern language which mentions the injection with the same facility that it mentions rockets." The newspaper ascertained that this allegation was absurd and experience has shown it to be a lie.

It is striking that AL-MUJAHID reported something that happened to an Algerian youth who had prepared a project concerning the arabicization of computers and he was praised by Western scientists but upon knocking on all the doors in his country he found that they were all closed and his plan met with rejection before consideration, and he was even told not to attempt to follow such a fruitless path.

This rejection of arabicization in the vital sectors was truly described by Mawlud Qasim, director of the Higher Council for National Language, anti-arabicization in sensitive sectors with which the efforts of the state to put Arabic in its rightful place have clashed. Responsible Algerian officials have stated firmly that "the prolongation of the age of cultural aberration and linguistic subjugation may be the basis of increased danger to society and to the integration of its elements and the consistency of its culture and heritage."

These officials revealed to AL-TADAMUN that this year will witness the creation of a scientific academy or a scientific council and that this matter will be studied in the next few months, and also at the beginning of this year there will be a complete reorganization to extend the arabicization plan into all sectors, one by one, and definitive measures will be taken against institutions which are determined to be negligent in carrying out arabicization.

There is no doubt that the "battle of arabicization" as observers in the Algerian capital call it, will witness a new and firey round in the current year because the Francophone movement is still strong and holds the keys to the decision in some important sectors, by virtue of well known historical reasons, but all of the sources are in agreement that the position of the government in coming period will be one of resoluteness.

12390

CSO: 4504/200

EGYPT

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES REAGAN'S POTENTIAL FOR INDEPENDENT POLICY

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 85 p 7

[Editorial: "Reagan's Second Presidential Term"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's second term as president of the United States of America began officially yesterday in the framework of a popularity which no American president previously achieved on re-election since President Eisenhower was re-elected in November 1956.

According to the American constitution, the president has the right to run for a second presidential term after completing his first term. The period of each term is 4 years. However, he does not have the right to run as candidate for a third term except in emergency cases. That happened once in the history of the United States, when President Roosevelt assumed the presidency for three terms, because of the circumstances of World War Two. That means that under normal circumstances no American president can remain for more than 8 years in the office of the presidency.

What usually happens is that the American president becomes more experienced and aware of the affairs of domestic and foreign politics in the 4 years of his second presidential term, since the 4 years of the first term have given him experience which he had not received before assuming the presidency.

Therefore it is expected that President Reagan will be wiser in his dealings with other countries and his struggle against pressure groups domestically, and consequently that the United States will follow a more equitable course vis-a-vis Arab causes, especially the Palestinian problem.

While we had hoped that Washington would be fairer regarding Palestinian demands, it would be more appropriate for the Palestinians to assume charge of their affairs by themselves, adhere to the independence of their own decisions, not to yield to any pressures or attempts at hegemony on the part of any Arab or non-Arab party and present by themselves the initiative which they consider will realize their national hopes, thereby acquiring more of the world's respect, in the East and West. They must not be hampered by terrorist attacks, because such attacks, which killed Fu'ad al-Qawasimah, must not kill the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking.

11887

CS0: 4504/214

PRESIDENT OBSERVES NEW PLANS FOR WEST DELTA AGRICULTURE

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by Mahmud Murad: "The West Delta: How Will It Become a 'Breadbasket' Meeting Egypt's Needs?"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak showed great attention to the West al-Nubariyah area during the visit he made there recently. He brought up a watchword of great significance: "The land to those who farm it."

This attention on President Mubarak's part lies within his concern to move the wheel of production and development forward, attack problems in order to set out radical solutions to them which will benefit the Egyptian "present" just as they benefit its "future," and stay wholly away from the policy of "patchwork" and tranquillizers which do more harm than good.

Proceeding from this notion, the Symposia and Studies Page in the Friday AL-AHRAM, which is entering its fifth year, is presenting an excellent study on the West Delta, calling, as we keep repeating, for regional planning to be done for it and for integrated agricultural development projects to be carried out, that is, projects in keeping with those we had been calling for before, months ago, years ago, when the government declared that land would be distributed to college graduates at a rate of 5 or 10 feddans per graduate. We happened to hold a symposium which stated that it was necessary that great areas be retained since it was possible they could be controlled, their farming consolidated and modern methods used, in irrigation or farming, with the agricultural industries and so forth which would be derived from that. We stated that there was no sense and no purpose in breaking up the new land and no justification for subjecting it to the same developments that occurred in the case of the old land. If anyone looked at the results of agrarian reform, "fragmentation" was not its goal; rather, the goal was to eliminate the privileges of a specific class and to give rights to the majority by liberating the will of deprived peasants when they were given freedom in making a livelihood and became landowners.

In any event, let us first of all review this study, which Dr Ahmad Amin Mukhtar, the chairman of the Society of Planners and the first person to have received a doctorate in the science of planning for 30 years, has set out.

The study consists of two basic parts. The first of these speaks about "the planning goals of the West Delta region." It begins with a general introduction asserting that Egypt still basically relies on farming, since about 72 percent of the people working in commodity industries, and 45 percent of all the people working throughout the country, are employed in it. In addition, agricultural commodity exports account for about 50 percent of total Egyptian exports. However, in exchange, Egypt faces an extreme need to import a large portion of foodstuffs from abroad in order to meet the needs of the population.

The study said that the government is facing this problem by means of solutions which proceed in two directions, vertical expansion in agriculture, that is, the use of technical methods to double per-feddan productivity, and horizontal expansion, through the reclamation of new lands. According to the plan, it is assumed that 2.6 million feddans will be reclaimed by 2000, that is, in the course of the next 15 years!

However, in order for Egypt to be able to attain self-sufficiency in food, it is necessary to devote attention to the West Delta region.

The reclaimed land in this region, according to Dr Mukhtar's statistics, comes to about 411,000 feddans. The government plan includes the reclamation of 375,000 feddans by 2000.

This region contains the largest landholdings, most of them belonging to the government, apart from the presence of numerous areas which are not connected to this region because in the absence of "regional planning" they have been functioning on their own behalf, although new cities have been established in them.

Therefore, it is inevitable that regional planning for the West Delta be carried out with the goal of:

- A. Establishing an advanced agricultural area relying on developed farming.
- B. Establishing integrated agricultural development projects directed toward production and suitable economic land areas which will permit the use of advanced agricultural methods.
- C. Studying the possibility of establishing participation projects specializing in the development and administration of areas which have been reclaimed or are ready for reclamation and farming, provided that the government define goals and plans.

This part concludes by stressing that the problem of self-sufficiency in food can be solved in Egypt through reliance on this region, since international experience confirms this. For example, we find that one-third the hybridized corn production in the United States of America is produced by just one 12,000-feddan farm in the state of Iowa. ✓

Of course, this possibility is open to us in the West Delta, if we rely on advanced methods and vertical expansion. Egypt, through its scientists and

experts of the Ministry of Agriculture, has proved itself in this area, and has succeeded in increasing the per-feddan tomato productivity to about 50 tons, whereas it was no greater than 8 or 10 tons. The same thing has happened in the case of corn, rice, vegetables and so forth.

Absorbing the Population Increase

The second part of the study covers a discussion of the assets of the West Delta region, thereby answering the question:

Why is this region, specifically, suited to be Egypt's breadbasket?

In answering, we find that the region lies west of the Rashid branch of the Nile River. To the north it extends to the Mediterranean, to the west to the Governorate of Mersa Matruh and to the south to Greater Cairo and Giza. That is, it is to be considered the main focal point in the linkup between the valley and the west of the country. It contains the Governorates of Alexandria and al-Buhayrah, Liberation Province, Wadi al-Natrun, the al-'Amiriyah area, the new reclamation areas, the new city of al-'Amiriyah and al-Sadat city. With these characteristics, it is an important focal point for developing agriculture, production and industry and absorbing the population increase from the Delta.

To go into detail, the region's area comes to about 4,882 square kilometers, that is, about 13.7 percent of Egypt's area. Its land in general is flat and from 0 to 200 [meters] above sea level, and in addition the climate in it is consistent.

Since 80 percent of the land area in the region is taken up by old and new towns, farming and reclamation, there is a conspicuous need to create regional planning so that the uses of the land may be connected to one another and agricultural and industrial production will be guided in accordance with the population and labor and on the basis of the government plan, in a manner that is in keeping with the resources and the maximum use of the land, and so that farming will be transformed into a modern mechanized process in order to meet the country's requirements.

In spite of the region's large area, it has only 4.8 million people (according to the 1976 census). It is expected that that will reach 8.6 million in 2000, so that it will be able to absorb additional large populations from the increase in the congested, exhausted valley!

As far as the economic possibilities of the region go, these are diverse and assume the form of farming, industry and trade.

Agriculture is the mainspring of life in all Egypt, but the per capita share of farmland now does not come to more than .17 feddan, that is, about one-seventh of a feddan. That will decline if the situation continues as it is to .08 feddan. This means that speed is required in the vertical expansion of agriculture as well as horizontal expansion by increasing the agricultural area. This can be carried out in the West Delta, since farming there is the main activity, and the area comes to about 818,600 feddans (95 percent

of which is in al-Buhayrah alone), 116,000 feddans in agricultural reclamation land, 23,500 feddans in reclaimed land and 80,000 feddans of land reclaimed in the Maryut area. That is, the West Delta region has more than a quarter of a million feddans of land which can be farmed and reclaimed and if this is included the entire agricultural area will become about 1,025,000 feddans, or about one quarter the cultivated area, which comes to about 5.8 million feddans.

Land Uses and Planning

We should add that reclamation must not take place haphazardly but rather that it is mandatory that comprehensive national planning be carried out which will define the uses of the land so that development will include all aspects of life.

The same point which applies to planning applies to industrial activity, since we find in the region food, textile, paper, chemical, plastic and other industry activities based on agricultural products and natural resources, and the economic and commercial activity derived from that, with the local or foreign market.

The presence of the port of Alexandria in the region as well as the port of al-Dukhaylah, which is now being built, adds to the region's importance.

Development and Residential Complexes

Thus the study sketched out the features of the West Delta region, referring to its importance and assets and stressing more than once that through proper exploitation it can become the "breadbasket" of all Egypt, on condition that comprehensive regional planning be done for it.

The fact is that some people consider that "regional planning" is a luxury, or that it is not a necessity, and that the processes of agricultural reclamation, settlement and construction in themselves constitute the planning and redevelopment of an area. Here we differ. If we adhere to science and planning throughout the country in the 5-year plans, it is necessary to acknowledge the value, importance and feasibility of comprehensive national planning for all of Egypt, and regional planning for specific parts.

Planning is not a purely economic process!

It is the tabulation of existing and probable resources and a statement of the best ways for using them and benefiting from them.

It is a science in its own right.

If we deal with the West Delta region, rather than leaving the reclamation and building processes to be carried out there in fragmented, disconnected form, it must be planned in a comprehensive manner, in a way which is aimed at establishing communities or agricultural-industrial complexes whose plans and types of production will be specified along with the crops they yield and the industries they are based on, then the economic and commercial

activities derived from that and the services that will require. On this basis, and in accordance with the planning and definition of land uses, the determination of areas for housing will be made. As a result of that, a residential community, that is, a town or small village, will be constructed in every agricultural, industrial or commercial complex. That is, we will have a group of communities with a density ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, and they will grow with time. This is the optimum way to establish new towns or villages. No one is now building new towns or villages in a vacuum. Rather, they establish productive projects which are a "focus for development" and the attraction of workers who will settle down and form their new society.

Of course everyone knows this, and the government, with its agencies and experts, knows it. However, we are referring to it merely so that we can then say that Egypt's scholars, in the form of university professors and other persons, have made numerous studies, which we will be publishing on this page. In addition, they are ready to work, waiting for the signal to begin!

11887

CSO: 4504/212

EGYPT

OBSERVER DEPLORES CONFUSING DESCRIPTION OF MUBARAK'S TRAVEL PLANS

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 21 Jan 85 p 7

[Editorial by Salar Muntasir: "Where Is the President?"]

[Text] All last Friday, I answered a single question over the telephone which had been asked of me by many people I know, and many I do not know, all of whom asked to contact me to ask "Where is the president?"

On the morning of that day, the newspapers had declared that he would reach Cairo from Athens, then, in the light of sudden weather conditions, the president's airplane, after taking off from Athens airport, announced that it was not possible to land at Cairo airport, and contacts were made between the president's airplane and officials in Rome, in which it was agreed that the president would arrive at an Italian airport. As is his custom in making use of every opportunity to engage in activity of service to his country, President Mubarak, as soon as he reached Rome, began contacts with senior Italian officials, Craxi, the prime minister of Italy, and Bertini, its president. Thus the president was able to turn an emergency crisis in the weather to which his airplane had been subjected to a working visit in which he assuredly completed a number of errands and tasks concerning Egypt's relations with Italy.

The news agencies carried news of the president from Italy from the time the schedule for his arrival in Cairo was changed, but it was strange that the audial and visual media in Egypt, in the form of the radio and television, imposed a curtain of absolute silence all throughout the day on all news related to the activity of the president. Thus millions found themselves listening in bewilderment to various news bulletins and found that these started with an item about Reagan, or another item about the meeting of the Consultative Assembly the following day to discuss agricultural policy, without mentioning a single item about the president, who was on a working trip outside the country. This prompted many people to get in contact with the offices of the newspapers to ask them "Where is the president?"

Here I must point to the incidental absence of Mr Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, from Egypt that day. He was on a working trip to Germany. It is certain that if he had been present he would have asked all

the people in charge of the news bulletins to monitor the news of the president, item by item.

However, the question is, if the minister was absent under such circumstances, are no officials aware of the dangers of imposing a curtain of silence over news about the president?

And are news bulletins being converted from instruments of knowledge to a question mark provoking bewilderment?

11887

CSO: 4504/214

EGYPT

OPPOSITION, GOVERNMENT DISCUSS REPAIRS TO MOSQUE

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 85 p 6

[Article by Mahmud Mu'awwad, 'Abd-al-Jawad 'Ali and Sharif al-'Abd: "The People's Assembly Decides To Devote a Session to Discussion of the Application of Islamic Law"]

[Excerpt] At its session yesterday, the People's Assembly decided to discuss the application of Islamic law at its sessions which will be held next 1 May. Shaykh 'Atiyah Saqr, member of the assembly, presented a request for the discussion of this issue which more than 64 members representing all political tendencies signed. The chairman of the assembly said "The People's Assembly does not at present have any drafts of laws to codify Islamic law; all the assembly has done has been to form committees to study this issue. Our goal in the coming stage is to purify existing laws of any violations of Islamic law."

The session began with a discussion of an urgent request for information from the opposition leader Mumtaz Nassar to the minister of culture regarding the repairs and modifications now being made to the dome of the al-Husayn mosque in Cairo and the destruction of some walls of archaeological significance in the mosque.

In his statement on the reasons for the request for information, Mumtaz Nassar said "Everything connected to our Islamic antiquities affects the conscience, heritage and traditions of the nation. In the past I presented a request for information concerning the Pyramid Heights which resulted in the abandonment of the project. Today's issue affects the renovations in the dome of the mosque of Our Lord Husayn, may God be content with him. What I am wondering is, how can work be carried out on a project which will change the historic character of this legacy, in spite of the rejection of the higher committee responsible for Islamic antiquities? There are two committee minutes which confirm what I am saying. The two minutes have disclosed that there was an insistence on the part of Arab Contractors Company to destroy the bars in the mausoleum, as well as to make other expansions, which will have an effect on the artwork, designs and minaret. Destruction has actually taken place without respect for the resolutions of the committee, as a result of which the Antiquities Authority has been compelled to

suspend the work. All members of the technical committee have submitted their resignations because of their failure to perform their mission."

In a thorough description of the operation, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Radwan, minister of culture, stated that the government would not permit any hand to touch this splendid Islamic antiquity or other antiquities outside of the context which the law on the protection of antiquities has spelled out and that the Ministry of Culture, represented by the Egyptian Antiquities Authority, is exclusively assigned the maintenance and repair work needed for all antiquities, archaeological sites and locations and registered historic buildings.

The minister said that the reasons for the resignation had nothing to do with the dome and mausoleum of Imam al-Husayn but that they were a contrived resignation declared by Dr Ni'mat Fu'ad, in her own words and writing, in the article she published.

The minister then asserted "There will be no infringement on the minaret of the mosque of Imam al-Husayn, the dome or the Green Door." He said "There will be no neglect of any portion of our antiquities. The dome of Imam al-Husayn is a precious part of the hearts of all of us. We respect and appreciate public opinion and scholars when carrying out any modification to the Mosque of Imam al-Husayn or the dome."

11887

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EGYPT

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE CASE REVIEWED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Jan 85 pp 30-31

[Article: "The Egyptian Banks Case Speaks in Billions!"]

[Text] On 27 October of last year, before 1984 came to an end, the Egyptian Ethics Court began looking into a case quite unlike the corruption trials of Rashshad 'Uthman and 'Ismat al-Sadat. The case is much more serious this time, since it involves not only exploitation of influence and amassing of wealth, but manipulation and dissipation of the people's savings and money as well. At the start of the sessions, the prosecution declared, "The Egyptian people are entitled to be informed about everything going on in this case. Do not leave them in a quandary." The court agreed to hold open sessions.

This time the significance of the case lies in its language and its figures. In the 11 sessions which the court has held so far to hear the witnesses for the prosecution, the talk has been of millions and billions and speculation in gold and silver. There are 20 defendants, two of which are legal persons: the Lord Shipping Company and the Egypt and Arab Countries Company, both owned by Sami 'Ali Hasan. The defense consists of 20 lawyers and legal experts, including a former justice minister, a former president of a state council, three members of the Egyptian Consultative Assembly, several law school deans, a university vice president, and a number of law students.

The main defendant in the case is Sami 'Ali Hasan, who does billions of dollars of business each year, who is charged with accumulating expatriate Egyptians' savings and selling them in Egypt in violation of banking regulations, activities which led to a rise in the exchange rate for the dollar. Similarly, Millionaire Defendant 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Jammal, owner and president of the Jammal Trust Bank and a Lebanese national, is charged with smuggling 62 million Saudi riyals abroad through false declarations, in addition to his involvement with Sami 'Ali Hasan in issuing unsecured post-dated checks amounting to 20.8 million Egyptian pounds, about 10 times the bank's capital, which jeopardized its interests. In addition, there is the young defendant 'Abd-al-Rahman Barkah, only 32 years old, who was formerly director of the Pyramids Bank and is now director of the Egyptian Hong Kong Bank. He is charged with exporting US\$380 million through false declarations, which enabled him to get export approval for what he was smuggling.

Although the president of the court, Counselor Hasan 'Uthman 'Ammar, overruled many questions directed to the defense witnesses which involved state policy, the nature of the case necessitated a discussion of monetary policy and the state's currency budget. On several occasions the sessions included lectures on economics delivered by prosecution witnesses who were economic experts with the Egyptian Central Bank and the Economy Ministry, in order to clarify the facts of the case. In the words of the court president, "This case involves facts, not policies." AL-MAJALLAH has been following this case involving deviant practices by investment banks and currency dealers in Egypt.

No Defense Witnesses

The socialist prosecutor general asked the Egyptian Ethics Court to sequester the money and property of the 20 defendants in the banks case, because they had acted in such a way as to seriously harm the economic interests of Egyptian society, by violating the country's laws and regulations pertaining to the granting of credit facilities, the export of surplus foreign currency, speculation in precious metals, and taxes. Currency Dealer Sami 'Ali Hasan increased his wealth by misappropriating the funds of the Pyramids Bank and the Jammal Trust Bank, and by trafficking in foreign currency on the black market.

During the 11 court sessions held so far, the court initially acceded to the defense's requests to hear the testimony of Economy Minister Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id and Deputy Prime Minister and Former Economy Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid, as economic experts. In its last session, however, before opening the proceedings to the prosecution and the defense, the court refused to hear the defense witnesses and declared itself content with the testimony of the prosecution witnesses, saying that the facts of the case had been made clear.

In view of the seriousness of the case and its connection with official policies, the defense requested that closed sessions be held, or that the court be prohibited from publicizing the facts brought before it. Here Prosecutor Counselor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid objected, saying, "The Egyptian people are the source of all authority. They own the land, and its economy and their economy are one. They are entitled to be informed of everything that goes on in this court. Depriving them of this knowledge, whether by prohibiting its publication or by holding closed sessions, is an act of hostility towards the people." He said, "Don't leave the people in a quandary between prohibition and deprivation." The court agreed with what he said.

An Attack On Bank Revenues

The prime fact in the case pertains to Defendant Sami 'Ali Hasan's accumulating the savings of expatriate Egyptians and selling them in Egypt, which amounted to diverting foreign currency from the legitimate

channels--the four national banks. In this context, one witness, the deputy general controller of the four national banks (Banque Misr, Banque du Caire, the Bank of Alexandria, and the National Bank of Egypt) which continued to deal with Sami 'Ali Hasan and other currency dealers in spite of the Economy Ministry's orders of 8 August 1983 that currency dealers' accounts be closed and that the banks deal only with moneychanging bureaus overseas in arranging their free currency needs, said that the national banks violated the provisions of the standardized tariff for banking services, which prohibits accepting post-dated checks except for collection.

The witnesses testified that the currency dealers had been buying the savings of expatriate Egyptians at rates higher than those given by public sector banks, and would then sell these savings to these banks. Such dealings were undermining the revenues of the national banks and weakening their resources, thus harming the country's national economy. The National Bank of Egypt would buy \$87 million a day from Sami 'Ali Hasan, at the black market rate, in order to arrange its foreign currency requirements. The Bank of Alexandria, through an exchange deal concluded with Sami 'Ali Hasan to pay the bank the sum of \$55 million in return for collecting expatriate Egyptian savings, lost about 6 million Egyptian pounds in state funds. The office of the Deputy for Egyptian State Funds has already begun an investigation to find out who was responsible for this waste of public money, and this exchange deal was the subject of lengthy discussions during which witnesses testified that the deal violated the prohibition issued by the Economy Ministry.

The witnesses testified that the four national banks had consistently arranged their foreign currency needs on the Egyptian and foreign black markets, and would enter the official exchange rate for foreign currency in their books, placing the difference between the official rate and the purchase rate under the heading "Currency Management Expenses."

Referring to this fact, the Central Bank's director general for foreign currency control said that from July to December 1982, when the currency merchants' bank accounts were closed, expatriate Egyptians' savings amounted to 582 million pounds, a 94.4 percent increase over the same period of the previous year.

A Different Language

When it comes to the export of surplus banknotes, the language of figures reaches its peak. During the early sessions, the witnesses' statements centered around the Pyramids Bank, which from 1 Aug 1981 to 31 March 1983 exported the equivalent of 425,842,000 pounds. During that same period, national public sector bank branches exported only 153,782,000 pounds. In other words, the Pyramids Bank exported three times as much money as the public sector banks did. Over a 17-month period, the Pyramids Bank exported the equivalent of 380 million pounds in surplus free currency bank notes, under the heading "repaying agents' debts." Such debts actually amount to no more than 20 million pounds, 17.5 million pounds of which have been repaid. The bank went through an exchange bureau headquartered in Jordan before

sending the money on to the correspondent bank. By collecting banknotes from currency dealers and exporting them without complying with currency export regulations, the bank has harmed the national economy and has engaged in what amounts to currency smuggling.

The court is still discussing the testimony of the prosecution witnesses dealing with the violations of the Jammal Trust Bank. Witnesses have testified that from 24 July to 8 September 1983, the Central Bank permitted the Jammal Trust Bank to export 260 million Saudi riyals, which the Central Bank had determined represented banknotes which had come from overseas in accordance with customs declarations. It became clear that the banks had not sold this sum to the above-mentioned bank for export purposes. The fact that depositors' names appeared repeatedly in conjunction with large sums of money suggests that they were currency dealers, and that one of them was depositing huge amounts of Saudi riyals on a daily basis, while the bank was accepting them even though their source was unknown.

The witnesses testified that the Economy Ministry has no control over moneychanging in other Arab countries. However, Arab moneychangers are obliged to pay the foreign currency to Egyptian banks in return for Egyptian currency to meet the savings, and the Egyptian banks pay no commissions to the Arab moneychangers.

Speculating With the People's Money

Speculation in gold and silver is a recent addition to Egypt's list of economic crimes, and for the first time the Ethics Court is stepping in because of the seriousness of such activities, which are related to speculating with the people's money. As the witnesses' discussions of the gravity of speculation in gold and silver indicated, such dealings require a great deal of expertise, which is lacking in Egypt. The incident began when the Misr-Iran Development Bank lost about \$10 million. Consequently, on 8 August 1982 the Economy Ministry issued orders to the banks prohibiting speculation in precious metals in order to ward off the dangers such deals are subject to because of violent fluctuations in these metals' prices. The National Bank of Egypt began speculating in violation of these orders, and such transactions accounted for 90 percent of its volume of business with one particular bank, the Merrill Lynch bank in Bahrain. This speculation went on without the knowledge of the bank's board chairman. Witnesses testified that the losses resulting from the bank's continued speculation in precious metals amounted to \$6.5 million. At this point the defense tried to prove that it was not new speculation, but was a winding-up of existing operations, and that the board had known about it and had not objected.

The case heated up when an Interior Ministry witness, Currency Crimes Squad Director Col 'Ala' 'Abbas 'Abd-al-Hayy, brought up the point that currency dealers had become more active, and had become so cheeky that they made the National Bank of Egypt's board meeting room, which is in the bank right next door to the bank director's office, the headquarters of their black market currency dealings. The strange thing is that the Economy Ministry's orders prohibit any control from within the banks, out of fear for the reputation of the banking system.

The court wound up the presentations by prosecution witnesses with the case's most important witness, representing the Economy Ministry and the Central Bank: Deputy Economy Minister and Central Bank Board Member Muhammad Rif'at Bashir, a shrewd witness extremely hard to pin down, for his responses occupied three sessions. He testified that the decision to stop dealing with currency merchants was not intended to take the form of a dispute between the ministry, the Central Bank and the currency dealers; its purpose was merely to achieve control over the legitimate channels and break the currency dealers' competition with legitimate channels, their monopolization of the savings of expatriate workers, and their diversion of such savings from the legitimate channels, and, consequently, to end their control over exchange rates. After the prohibition was instituted, it was decided that the Bank of Alexandria would make a deal with Sami 'Ali Hasan for the purchase of \$80 million, with the approval of the economy minister and the governor of the Central Bank, in order to meet the bank's needs. This was an exception to, not a violation of, the Economy Ministry's decree. A similar exception was made so that the Banque du Caire could conclude a similar deal with Currency Dealer Ahmad al-Sayyid al-Bandari for a larger amount. These deals had to be made, in view of the currency dealers' domination of the free currency market.

\$9 Million a Day

The defense, which consists of several senior legalists, is confronting the prosecution witnesses in an attempt to convince the court that currency dealers are the only means by which the crises facing Egypt's public sector companies and banks can be solved. Sami 'Ali Hasan's attorney, Muhammad Rashshad Nabih, said that the defendant had had an account since 1979, that he was acquiring up to \$9 million a day in hard currency from the Suez Canal Bank, and that this money was being used to serve the national economy. Furthermore, when the banks were unable to supply hard currency, the Iron and Steel Company requested \$100 million from the defendant, which he provided. The question is whether this company would have had to shut down if it had not obtained this sum.

Sami 'Ali Hasan's defense mentioned that the Central Bank itself had asked the National Bank of Egypt to deposit 87 million pounds in the defendant's account, in return for hard currency which it then transferred to the Bank of Philadelphia in New York to meet the needs of the Central Bank group.

The defense also pointed out that the exchange rate for the dollar, which was 115 piasters the day the currency dealers' accounts were closed, has now risen to more than 135 piasters, which amounts to a devaluation of the Egyptian pound. The question is whether this is state policy or a ministerial decision.

With regard to the export of banknotes, Defense Attorney Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Sharqawi testified that the Jordanian "Salviti Exchange Organization" was selected to act as middleman in the export of banknotes because credit

facilities exist between Egypt and Jordan and visas are not needed for travel between the two countries. He indicated that in his possession are 18 banknote export authorizations issued by the Central Bank which are contingent on the issuance of new authorization, and that in each case the previous authorization's guidelines had been adhered to precisely.

The defense for the owner of the Jammal Trust Bank stressed that the bank did nothing more than export currency within the bounds of the law, and that further evidence in defense of the defendant would be brought out during the court proceedings.

Although the facts of the case have been made clear through the questioning of nine prosecution witnesses--economists, employees of the Egyptian Central Bank (which supervises the banks), and employees of the Economy Ministry--the case still holds many surprises which the prosecution and the defense are putting off until the court proceedings begin.

Foreign Currency Transactions

Foreign currency transactions in Egypt are regulated by Law No 97 of 1976, the first article of which provides that any person or corporate entity other than government agencies, public authorities and public sector entities is allowed to keep any foreign currency he might acquire, own or obtain through dealings other than commodity export or tourism. This law's second article provides that the persons permitted by the previous section to hold foreign currency have the right to engage in any foreign currency transaction, including transferring it into or out of Egypt and carrying out transactions within the country, provided that such transactions are done through banks authorized to deal in foreign currency.

Therefore, the law permits a person to keep foreign currency regardless of its source, be it title deed, gift, contribution, purchase, exchange for goods or services, or any other reason, since the act of possession in itself suffices to entitle the holder to keep the foreign currency.

Related to the right to possess foreign currency is the right to carry out all forms of transactions in that currency. The only restriction the law places on such transactions is that they be carried out through bank accounts. Therefore, any foreign currency holder who wants to carry out any transactions in it must deposit it in a bank account, which will then entitle him to engage in any foreign currency transaction.

8559

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LIBYA

JOURNALIST DESCRIBES AL-QADHDHAFI AND HIS RESIDENCE

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 23-29 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by 'Imad-al-Din Adib: "An Inside Look at One of the Most Controversial Leaders; Who Is Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi?"]

[Text] I had expectations, impressions, newspaper clippings, a few truthful stories and a few fabricated ones, but I did not know the precise truth about the Libyan experience. These were the thoughts that ran through my mind before my airplane landed. It was the first time for me to land at Libya's so-called Tripoli International Airport.

No matter how much a journalist reads and hears, his personal observations and experiences of events and of the facts are always "the best way that he as a journalist can follow to find truth and intellectual honesty."

It is actually scandalous that Arab journalists rely on newspaper clippings and on the observations and impressions of foreign correspondents in Libya to get information about Libya and its leader. How can we write about an Arab country when we rely in what we write on what was written by a French correspondent, reported by a U.S. magazine or publicized by a publication from Denmark?

Although I did do my homework as a journalist--that is, I read books, publications, studies and information on file about Libya and its leader--I must admit in all honesty that I discovered after this visit was over, that the information, the figures and stories I had read were fading in front of what I had seen.

I did not deceive myself at all. When I began working tirelessly 6 months ago to make this visit materialize, I realized that I had a difficult mission.

The difficulty of the mission stemmed from the fact that I would face a new experience and a controversial leader. Not much has been written about that experience in Arabic, and what has been written is either highly laudatory or extremely derogatory.

The fact is that no respectable journalist or newspaper can adopt an approach to a subject which seems to suggest that nothing could be worse than this or nothing could be better than that.

I decided to use my pen as though it were a camera: I would record everything I saw in Libya in all their shades of white, black and grey.

I had decided to try setting forth to Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi himself the observations and critical remarks that were being made about the Libyan experiment today. I decided I would try to do that without beating about the bush.

I decided to assume an adversarial posture when I saw Col al-Qadhdhafi and to lay out everything to him, not as an editor-in-chief would present them to an Arab leader, but rather as a young Arab would when interviewing another young Arab.

No matter how much I disagreed with Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi before, during and after this interview, I must say in all honesty that the man did put up with me, and that he was tolerant of my difficult and aggressive questions to which he occasionally reacted in a broad-minded manner. What annoys Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi most is not to be understood.

He wonders how any Arab or African nation can reject the idea of uniting with Libya!

He cannot accept the fact that the Palestinian Resistance remains dispersed. [Its members], as the colonel himself says, remain "in hotels, not in the trenches."

What annoys Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi even more is the inability of international political forces in the east and west to realize that the Third International Theory of the World is the ultimate and permanent solution to all the political problems they are experiencing. Since this theory provides the ultimate and ideal solution, he wonders why the world, both the east and west, is wasting its time with futile theories whose failure, according to al-Qadhdhafi, has been proven.

All these questions were laid out for the discussion that was to take place between young Mu'ammarr and young 'Imad. No reference would be made to titles or positions, and the only rules that were set for the interview were those of a commitment to the freedom to disagree and a commitment to report every word truthfully to Arab readers.

When the automobile that belongs to the Protocol Department was driven into Bab al-'Aziziyah Barracks on the outskirts of the capital, Tripoli, a few military fortifications became visible. Then we stopped for a few seconds with a few guards. At the gate to the camp we saw the muzzles of two heavy tanks glaring from behind concrete walls.

Bab al-'Aziziyah is that area where fighting had broken out on 8 May 1984 in a building opposite the barracks where al-Qadhdhafi lives. Fighting had broken out that day between forces of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Libyan Revolutionary Guard.

Two minutes later, our car, which was being driven by Isma'il al-Jihati, deputy director of protocol in Libya, stopped in front of "the leader's" office. That is how Mu'ammarr is referred to everywhere in Libya.

The leader's office and his residence are located in Bab al-'Aziziyah where the man leads an ordinary life with his family and five children who attend the closest school to the barracks, near Bab al-'Aziziyah.

There is a soccer field beside the office, and it can be used as a horseback riding track. These are the two sports that al-Qadhdhafi does well and still enjoys.

It was 5 p.m. on 12 January 1985. The heavy winter rains of Tripoli were unusually heavy that day as they fell on the leader's office which consisted of an Arabian tent that was pitched in the middle of a small garden.

The tent was 10 meters wide and 15 meters long. Inside the tent there was a small desk, a desk chair, three chairs for guests, a radio receiver, a recording device and a television set that was turned on when broadcasting began and remained on till broadcasting ended. Sometimes the volume on the television set would be turned off; what mattered to Mu'ammarr was that he see what was going on on the screen.

The floor of that tent was covered with straw mats. It is from that tent that Mu'ammarr manages his daily business. He starts out early in the morning by reading a summary of trends in international newspapers and broadcasts and a summary of what is being written and broadcast about Libya and about him personally. He also reads a group of urgent political reports and a daily summary of internal security conditions and national security conditions as well.

Mu'ammarr is fond of keeping tabs himself on international radio broadcasts. He is always listening to international news bulletins, particularly on the B.B.C. and the Voice of America.

When I walked into the tent, the man was on his feet and ready to greet me. He seemed very relaxed. He greeted me with a friendly smile, and he invited me to sit on a chair opposite his. My chair was lower than the one he was sitting on. Therefore, whenever I talked with him, I had to look up.

While fellow photographers were taking pictures, I reflected again on Mu'ammarr.

This man is not like the one we see in pictures.

The real Mu'ammarr is slimmer than he appears to be in pictures. He also appears to be calm and not tense. He does not smoke, and he goes to bed at an early hour. He is not a big eater, and he drinks large amounts of fruit juices and milk. His favorite foods are dates and whole wheat bread.

I noticed that Mu'ammarr was wearing a copper bracelet in his left arm to alleviate the mild arthritic condition he has; it is caused by Libya's severe winters.

Mu'ammarr was wearing a woolen military uniform that did not have any insignia indicating rank. However, the brass buttons of the suit were engraved with "the falcon of Quraysh" which appears on the flags of the Federation of Arab Republics--that federation which has not yet been formed!

Mu'ammarr started out by asking me, "Is this your first visit to the Jamahiriyah brother 'Imad?"

I told him, "Yes, as a matter of fact, it is."

He remonstrated, "How is it that you have not yet visited us in Libya when you are a journalist and an Arab?"

But Mu'ammarr spoke before I explained to him the circumstances that had prevented me in the past from visiting Libya. He began asking questions about AL-MAJALLAH and expressed an interest in the magazine's distinguished journalistic style. Then his questions focused on the magazine's management system, its circulation and the professional careers of its publishers, Mr Hisham 'Ali Hafiz and Mr Muhammad 'Ali Hafiz.

Mu'ammarr stopped talking suddenly and asked, "Is your magazine making a profit?"

I said, "As far as I know, it has the largest circulation and advertising figures, thank God."

He looked at me with considerable bewilderment and spoke in a voice that was hoarse because of a slight cold. His voice suggested a sense of strong disappointment as he said, "Why is it then that many people who own firms that publish works in Arabic complain of tremendous losses?"

I looked at him and said somewhat mischievously, "Every shaykh has his own [religious] order."

When he realized what I had meant, he laughed loudly in a childish manner.

Everybody went out of the tent, and Mu'ammarr and I were left there alone.

I asked his permission to turn on my recording device, even though his recording device was on when I entered the tent.

I decided to start what was to be al-Qadhdhafi's most explosive interview yet. I decided to begin my quest to find out who is Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

The interview--or rather, the verbal duel--began.

8592

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1 March 1985

LIBYA

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROPOSES LAW ON LOCAL SECURITY

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 4 Jan 85 p 14

[Article: "Memorandum for Submission to the People's Conferences Regarding the Issuance of the Law on Local People's Security"]

[Text] There is no argument that security, in every human society, is considered essential and necessary for providing a suitable atmosphere in which all members may devote themselves to work and production and build the edifice of society in circumstances dominated by confidence from which the element of fear or disturbance due to any motive or cause is removed.

While this rule is correct through all ages, the age of the masses which our Jamahiriya is witnessing holds that the presence of security is not just important because it is necessary for controlling and organizing self-construction -- its importance also extends and expands in a manner in which each citizen in this society is considered responsible for its security and a participant in carrying out its efforts, since, in the society of the masses, no one is assigned to bear the duties of realizing security abroad and domestically in the place of others. On this basis, all individuals are considered directly responsible for carrying out this duty through the participation by each in the performance of various security duties. If this is the principle, the presence of a traditional security agency composed of individuals to whom the business of providing security for others in the society is assigned becomes a matter contrary to the principles of the masses, which are founded on participation by the sectors in the responsibilities which the matter of establishing the new mass society imposes on them.

For this reason, the establishment of people's security, in its true conception, requires that each play his direct part in pursuing matters dictated by the provision of security. It is natural that this approach requires the creation of an agency for local people's security which will exercise its duties in accordance with the view which is based on the principle that security is the responsibility of every male and female citizen, be they volunteers or subject to guidance, whether or not they are salaried.

The importance the issue of people's security acquires makes it necessary that there be organization and that organized rules and provisions are set

out. Therefore it is necessary that a law be set out expressing the desired goals by establishing a people's security agency which will have full effectiveness in carrying out the requirements of providing internal security for the masses.

In order to achieve this, the accompanying draft law has been set out. In its first article, it stipulates that people's security is the responsibility of the citizens of the Libyan Arab Socialist People's Jamahiriyah and that the citizen is considered responsible for the protection of security, even if he is not a volunteer or subject to guidance.

The other articles set out the organizational rules for the exercise of this responsibility, as follows:

1. The local people's security agency established in each municipality will be subordinate to the people's committee of justice there, and it will have a branch within the context of each locality. The general people's committee of justice will by its own decree be in charge of determining the organizational structure of each agency.

These agencies will be in charge of all the areas of competence assigned to the police under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

2. The people's security agency and its branches in the municipality will consist of local people's security volunteers and members of the police in the area of the municipality.

3. The draft law stipulates the necessary conditions for volunteering for work in local people's security and addresses itself to the determination of measures bearing on volunteer activity, the body which is to give agreement to that and the rules bearing on the training of volunteers in methods of work in this agency and the powers assigned to them, as well as the uniform volunteers will wear, in accordance with the executive decrees issued by the people's committee of justice in this regard.

4. The draft law defines matters which are prohibited for volunteers, rules for giving them salaries and ways of compensating them for losses they might suffer through their performance of the work assigned to them. Employees in administrative units as well as employees in companies and installations and their equivalents may volunteer for work in the local people's security agencies, on a full time basis or in addition to a basic job, and special rules have been set out on ways for granting them their salaries and financial benefits.

5. The draft law defines the rules for transferring volunteers from one municipality to another in accordance with changes in volunteers' places of residence or periodic transfer by agreement of the two municipalities.

It also determines cases where volunteers' work is terminated, that is, disability because of health conditions, resignation and conviction for the commission of a felony, crime of aggression against human life or property or crime detrimental to honor, as well as removal by disciplinary decree.

6. The draft law assigns to the executive bill on it the definition of the crimes and disciplinary penalties to be applied to local people's security volunteers.

The matter has been presented to the people's conferences for review and agreement to the issuance of the accompanying draft law.

Law Number [Blank] for the Year [Blank] on Local People's Security

The general people's conference:

In execution of the decrees of the basic people's conferences at the meeting of their ordinary session on [blank], which were formulated by the general convocation of basic people's conferences, people's committees, federations, unions and professional leagues (the general people's conference), at the meeting of its ordinary session in the period from [blank] to [blank]:

Has formulated the following law:

Article One. Local people's security is the responsibility of the citizens of the Libyan Arab Socialist People's Jamahiriyah. Citizens will be considered responsible for the protection of security, even if they are not volunteers or subject to guidance.

Article Two. In each municipality or the equivalent an agency will be established, by name of the local people's security agency, which will be subordinate to the people's committee of justice in the municipality, and it will have a branch in each section. The organizational structure of the agency in each municipality will be determined by decree of the general people's committee of justice in accordance with a decree of the people's committee of justice in the municipality.

Article Three. The local people's security agency will, in the context of the municipality, be in charge of all the areas of competence assigned to the police agencies in the municipality.

Article Four. The local people's security agency and its branches in the municipality will be made up of:

1. Local people's security volunteers under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

2. Members of the police in accordance with the provisions of Law Six for 1972 regarding police working under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

Article Five. The following are conditions persons volunteering for work in the local people's security agencies in accordance with the provisions of this law must meet:

1. They must enjoy Arab nationality in accordance with Law 18 for 1980 regarding the provisions of the nationality law.

2. They must reside within the context of the municipality.
3. They must be of good reputation and conduct.
4. They must be no less than 18 years of age.
5. They must not have received a sentence of a penalty for a felony, a crime of aggression against life or property or a crime detrimental to honor, unless their reputation has been restored to them.
6. They must be physically fit and not have previously been lodged in a hospital or sanatorium for mental or psychological illness.

Article Six. Applications to volunteer for work in the local people's security apparatus will be submitted to the people's committee of justice in the municipality on a form prepared for that, accompanied by the necessary documents.

The committee will issue its decree accepting or rejecting the applications and notifying the persons concerned of that within 3 months of the date on which they are submitted.

The people's committee of justice in the municipality concerned may reject volunteers' applications, even if they meet the necessary conditions, when that is related to security considerations.

Article Seven. The general people's committee of justice will set out programs for the theoretical and practical training of local people's security volunteers in the areas assigned to them in accordance with the provisions of this law.

The people's committee of justice in each municipality will determine the place, date and period of each training course according to its branches and secretariats.

Article Eight. Local people's security volunteers may receive weapons, ammunition and equipment necessary for carrying out their duties.

Article Nine. Local people's security volunteers will wear their own uniforms and insignia, which will be determined by the general people's committee of justice, while carrying out their activities.

Article [10]. While performing their work, local people's security volunteers will carry the following papers:

- A. A special identity card.
- B. A notebook specifying their duties and the addresses [and] telephone numbers of the bodies connected with their work, in particular security affairs, criminal investigation, traffic, emergency assistance, civil defense, local people's security branches and posts, first aid and fire departments.

C. A pad containing various forms for providing notice on crimes, accidents and all other matters which the competent bodies consider should be included on it.

The people's committee of justice in the municipality will issue forms for the papers stipulated in the previous paragraph.

Article 11. The general people's committee of justice will issue a decree determining conditions, circumstances and rules on the gradation of ranks and the seniority of local people's security volunteers within the municipality.

Article 12. Local people's security volunteers will be prohibited from the following:

A. Disclosing information or data of which they become informed in the course of carrying out their missions, if that is secret by nature or instructions require that it be so considered.

B. Keeping any papers related to local people's security activity to themselves or taking them from the files allocated for their retention, even if they concern activities to which one of them has personally been assigned.

Article 13. Local people's security volunteers may be granted bonuses or salaries in exchange for performing their jobs, and they must be compensated for harm they have suffered during or because of their performance of the work to which they were assigned in accordance with this law and the decrees issued in its regard, all in accordance with the conditions and circumstances spelled out by the executive bill of this law.

Article 14. People working in general agencies [and] installations or companies owned by the society, or in whose capital the society has a share, may volunteer for local people's security, on condition that no conflict with the volunteer's basic job arise in that regard, since volunteer work is supplementary to the basic job.

Volunteer work may also be on a basis of full time separation from the basic job, in which case the period of volunteer work will be treated from all aspects as if the volunteer had spent it in his basic position or job. The body to which the volunteer belongs will defray the salaries, raises and all other financial benefits stipulated for him in his basic job.

Article 15. If a local people's security volunteer transfers his place of residence to another location inside or outside the municipality, his work in local people's security will be transferred to the area to which he has moved.

Local people's security volunteers may also be moved on a periodic basis from one municipality to another. The transfers will be by agreement of the two municipalities, and the decree on the transfers will be issued by the municipality to which they are transferred.

Article 16. Volunteer's work in the local people's security agency will be terminated for one of the following causes:

1. Failure to perform the duties of volunteer work for health reasons.
2. Resignation.
3. Sentence of a penalty for a felony, a crime of aggression against life or property or a crime detrimental to honor.
4. Removal by disciplinary decree.

Article 17. The executive bill will determine the crimes and disciplinary penalties which will be applied to local people's security volunteers.

Article 18. The executive bill of this law will be issued by decree of the general people's committee on the basis of a presentation by the general people's committee of justice.

Article 19. All provisions contradicting the provisions of this law will be abrogated.

Article 20. This law will be published in AL-JARIDAH AL-RASMIYAH and will be in effect as of the date on which it is published.

[Signed] The general people's conference.

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MOROCCO

JEWISH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES PEACE HOPES

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2-8 Feb 85 pp 11, 12

[Interview with Johana Ohana by Abu Bakr al-Sadiq al-Sharif: "The First Jew in the Moroccan Parliament to AL-TADAMUN: Loyalty to Morocco First of All: Those Who Have Emigrated Are Called on To Return"]

[Text] Johana Ohana's accession to the Moroccan Chamber of Deputies in the 14 September 1984 elections did not represent an element of surprise, although he was the first Moroccan Jew to reach the rank of parliamentary representative in the most important legislative institution in the country. Since 1976, when the king of Morocco appealed to Moroccan Jews to come back to their country, the appeal assumed concrete form through the conference of the Jewish communities in Morocco held in the city of Rabat on 13 and 14 May 1984, which at the time stirred up the various reactions it stirred up, and, with the arrival of this Jewish deputy in the cupola of parliament, deep Moroccan beliefs, which are no secret to anyone, on the need to give a dialogue and concern over mutual understanding a broader opportunity within the priorities of the file of the Arab-Israeli struggle were reaffirmed. In addition, the deep belief is also felt that Jews who are of Arab origin are a card for applying pressure in the hands of the Arab countries to whom they belong and it is possible to use them in service of the cause of just peace. In addition to that, Johana Ohana's entry into the Moroccan parliament has more than one significant aspect and future dimension, and this prompted us to talk with him and learn about his ideas through the following conversation:

[Question] In your capacity as a Moroccan Jew who was elected deputy to parliament as a representative for a seat which is not restricted to Moroccan Jews, how do you view Jewish-Moroccan conciliation in Morocco and in the framework of the Arab countries in which Jewish communities are present?

[Answer] Jewish-Moroccan reconciliation is not a problem of itself. It has always existed, by virtue of the factors of history and common origins. The Arabs and Jews are cousins and are all descended from our lord Abraham. All factors unite them. Therefore, we must avoid any confusion from which a mistake might arise between Jewishness and Arabhood on the one hand and the state of Israel and the Palestinians on the other. Indeed, I believe that

avoiding this sort of confusion by strengthening the bonds of Jewish-Arab friendship will lead to success in resolving the present struggle, which, in my opinion, is a historic element which has arisen by chance.

[Question] There are people who believe that your entering into the Chamber of Deputies has given concrete form to the notions to which the conference of the Jewish community held recently in Rabat alluded. Our question is, how do you view the solutions to the problems contained in the file on the Middle East struggle?

[Answer] The conference of the Jewish community which was held recently in Rabat was praiseworthy for its spirit and its goals and it answers your first question more precisely. Let me not miss this opportunity to refer to the wisdom of King Hassan the Second, who, through the illumination he imparts to international issues, has grasped that Jewish-Arab friendship can lead to the advent of peace in the Middle East.

He fell silent a moment, then said,

"Morocco, a country of tolerance and commingling, is in a position which enables it, more than any other country, to strengthen Arab-Jewish friendship and enable opportunities for solving the Israeli-Palestinian struggle to pass by way of the unification of people's hearts."

[Question] We know that before Morocco received its independence you took part in the national movement by means of the party of the National Union of Popular Forces. We also know that you had a warm relationship with the founder of this party, Mr Mehdi Ben Barka. Indeed, we heard that you took the last breakfast with him before he was kidnapped, and you know that the Moroccan national movement has had, and still does have, its program, which considers the liberation of all parts of the Arab nation, including Palestine, of the same order of importance as the liberation of Morocco. How do you consider, then, the conditions of the Jewish-Arab struggle now?

He remained silent a long time before answering,

"I actually did struggle in the ranks of the Moroccan national movement, driven at that time by a basic goal, which was embodied in the liberation of my country from the fire of colonialism. Like any person who is devoted to justice, I am attached to the principle of the liberation of all peoples and respect for their rights. In addition, the religion I have embraced causes me to shun any thinking which might conflict with these principles."

[Question] What we were hoping would be explained is that there are Jews who are on the side of Arab rights and there are others who work with great vehemence against these rights. Can you conceive of a possibility for creating balance between the former and the latter, that is, do you believe in the possibility of establishing a country in which Moslems, Christians and Jews can coexist, and how?

[Answer] At first I would like to assert that I am disgusted by any principle which calls for fanaticism, and my conviction is that victory can form

alliance only with the use of reason and respect for the rights of others. Proceeding from this premise, I consider that it is necessary that we rapidly destroy any seed which will be guaranteed to stand against peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the various areas of the world. Therefore it is necessary for us that we abandon all bitter ideas so that the children of Abraham may extend their hands in reconciliation.

After a moment of silence, he added,

"Once again, permit me to assert that the present problem is embodied in the need to put the file on the Middle East in its real perspective, that is, the Palestinians on the one hand and the Israelis on the other!"

[Question] We would like to know your opinion concerning the emigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel. Do you believe that their loyalty is to Morocco, in the capacity of fatherland? Proceeding from that premise, can they influence the mentality of aggression in Israel?

[Answer] The emigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel is part of the general freedoms which all Moroccan citizens are given without discrimination, and the reasons for it lie in numerous aspects, the most important of which perhaps is economic in nature. However, in spite of the enticements which have turned the Jews of Morocco into the most extensive segment in Israel, they have always remained attached to Morocco and the king of Morocco with all their power. On that subject, Moroccan Jews have worked in all the countries where they have worked to form various societies whose goal is to preserve their identity, their culture and their legacy of civilization connected to Morocco. Proceeding from that premise, they are to be considered Morocco's best ambassadors, even inside Israel!

[Question] Does that mean that King Hassan the Second's appeal to them to return to Morocco could be favorably received?

[Answer] I personally do not believe that there is any obstacle in the way of the favorable reception of this appeal. Indeed, I am convinced that there is not the least doubt about their affiliation to Morocco, and therefore I find myself convinced of the possibility that they will return to their country, Morocco, where they will enjoy all their rights.

[Question] Let us go back then to our question, which is, what role can the loyalty of Moroccan Jews to Morocco play in advancing Morocco's convictions regarding the Palestinian cause to the point of influencing Israeli decisions?

[Answer] It must be clear that the Jewish community in Morocco played a prominent role in backing Morocco's seminal causes during the struggle of independence, and in addition to that constitutes a natural extension of Morocco's commitments. It has also been observed that their concentrated presence in Israel could help shed light on the nature of the coexistence which exists in Morocco between Moslems and the Jewish community. I believe that this coexistence could constitute a model of the form Palestinian-Israeli relations must take in the context of the establishment of two fully

sovereign states in the Middle East area. The most important thing now is for efforts to be joined to sanctify an acceptable formula for a peaceful solution which will guarantee this sort of coexistence, now that it has been confirmed to us all that it is impossible to maintain this struggle, which is thoroughly convulsing all the peace efforts in the Middle East area.

[Question] Does this opinion have implications in terms of your role as the first Moroccan Jew in the Chamber of Deputies?

[Answer] Parliament is a framework for formulating the general notions of Moroccan groups on various domestic, regional and international issues. As far as I personally am concerned, in the context of my commitments as a parliamentary deputy who does not represent the Jewish community, but rather represents Moroccan groups in the area of Essaouira, nonetheless I will always be ready for anything which will in effect benefit efforts of coexistence and reconciliation.

[Question] Morocco experienced three phases of elections since receiving independence. The first was in 1963, the second in 1970 and the third in 1977. The lists of candidates in these elections did not contain anyone from the Jewish community. How did this community respond to your candidacy in the September 1984 elections and your success in gaining membership in the Chamber of Deputies?

[Answer] My election by Moroccan citizens was devoid of discrimination, and this stresses a fact, that I belong to them in heart and soul. Therefore it is up to me to justify the trust they have placed in me. Of course the Moroccan Jewish community was happy and proud to see in my candidacy and acquisition of the trust of all a consecration of the principles of the Moroccan constitution and the noble sentiments which the Moroccan people possess.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that the Essaouira area in which Ohana won is inhabited by 2,917 Moroccan Jews, a very small proportion relative to other towns such as Marrakesh, in which 10,007 Jews live, Meknes, with 10,894, Fez, with 8,732, and Tangiers, with 6,232. The nature of the distribution of the electoral districts into direct balloting districts allowed only a minor percentage of the Moroccan Jews in Essaouira to elect someone from the community.

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LEBANON

DEPUTY ALBERT MANSUR PRAISES SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Nov 84 p 8

[Interview with Deputy Albert Mansur: "Lebanese Deputy Albert Mansur to TISHRIN: Syria, Under Leadership of President al-Asad, Is Base of Steadfastness Against Enemy; Abolition of 17 May Accord and Formation of Karami's Cabinet Are Two Signs of New Upsurge; al-Naqurah Negotiations Do Not Mean Abandoning Option of Armed Resistance"]

[Text] Lebanese deputy Albert Mansur asserted that relations between Lebanon and Syria must be privileged, even over the relations with the Arab brothers, and that Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has become the main base of steadfastness in the Arab homeland in the face of the Israeli enemy and of all imperialist ambitions.

In an interview with TISHRIN, Deputy Mansur said that there is in the Arab homeland at present the pan-Arab line, which is followed by Syria, and the defeatist line, which deals with Israel and which has fallen at the feet of the United States.

Mansur also said that the correction movement is a historic movement in the Arab area and that it will continue to be the actual and true center of polarization for the Arab aspirations and hopes against their enemies and for the progress of the Arabs. He also said that it has been proven that there is no friend for Lebanon and no help for saving it without an understanding with the fraternal Syria under the leadership of President al-Asad.

Deputy Mansur stressed that the basis of the current internal situation in Lebanon is the upsurge from a specific point symbolized by the abolition of the 17 May accord and the formation of the national unity cabinet under Prime Minister Rashid Karami and with the support of sisterly Syria for this new upsurge. He said that the framework and form with which al-Naqurah negotiations have started constitute important political progress in the current situation now that the enemy has been forced to engage in military talks within the framework of the truce agreement and under the auspices of the United Nations.

He also said: The future to which we aspire is a Lebanon whose land is liberated from the Israeli enemy, whose domestic situation is united and which is heading with momentum toward cooperation with the Arab brothers, especially with sisterly Syria.

Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] What is your conception of the true Lebanese situation at present?

[Answer] The basis of the current domestic situation is the upsurge from a specific point symbolized by the abolition of the 17 May accord, formation of the national unity cabinet under Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the support of sisterly Syria for this upsurge with its two symbols: abolition of the accord and bolstering of the national reconciliation process through the cabinet. This new situation has faced major difficulties and has also been coupled with big positive points, including:

1. Rescuing Lebanon from the talons of the 17 May accord and, consequently, from the talons of Israel and the United States.
2. Stopping the fighting and the shelling, thus relaxing the domestic atmosphere in Lebanon.
3. Reassuring the Lebanese of Syria's support for this new situation.

However, this situation has been coupled with some negative points, as we have already said, including:

1. The failure to reach so far any firm and clear bases for internal understanding.
2. A degree of lack of security, especially in West Beirut, due to the multiplicity of organizations and of armed elements and due to the widespread presence of these organizations and elements. This harms the citizens and causes them daily disturbances.

Insofar as the general framework is concerned, there is no doubt that there has been considerable improvement in Lebanon's situation. But insofar as the details pertaining to the people's daily lives are concerned, the situation is still difficult. Big efforts must be exerted at this level--the level of the daily life--in order to complete the salvation process that started with the support of sisterly Syria, especially since we are on the threshold of big payments due [istihqaqat] pertaining to the liberation of the south, Western al-Biqa' and Rashayya from the Israeli enemy. This requires supporting the national resistance in the south and exerting international political pressure on Israel to compel it to withdraw.

There are, moreover, the hard economic payments due and the threat posed to the citizens' lives and livelihoods.

In view of all of this, we hope that the efforts will be concerted quickly to put the internal affairs of the house in order so that the salvation plan may be able to turn to dealing with the occupation and with the developments in the Arab arena.

[Question] What is your evaluation of al-Naqurah negotiations?

[Answer] In principle, it is my opinion that the framework and the form with which al-Naqurah negotiations have started constitute important political progress in the current situation. The enemy has been forced into military talks within the framework of the truce agreement and under the auspices of the United Nations.

As for the outcome of these negotiations, it is tied to numerous factors, the most important of which are the extent of the escalation in the national resistance in the south, which is something in which we must persist, the extent of the international pressure on Israel and the extent of the internal Lebanese steadfastness rallying behind the resistance and not rushing for the negotiations because we believe that our current situation is much better than in the past and that Israel is in a difficult position internally, internationally and in the south. Consequently, Lebanese firmness in the negotiations must inevitably lead to liberating the land in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, i.e., to the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from our occupied territories.

The talks may, of course, be prolonged and the enemy may resort to evasion and may try to exert pressure through his agents. However, we must stand fast and confront. The outcome of the talks must inevitably be in the interest of Lebanon and of the Arabs.

[Question] How do you view the future situation of Lebanon?

[Answer] The future we aspire to is a Lebanon whose soil is liberated from the Israeli enemy and whose internal position is united and a Lebanon which heads with momentum toward cooperation with its Arab brothers, especially with sisterly Syria whose support and backing are indispensable for the stability and strengthening of the situation in Lebanon, and toward the maximum strengthening of its relations with Syria.

I hope that the great understanding displayed by the Syrian brothers toward the internal Lebanese situation will lead to further support for Lebanon and toward saving Lebanon in the direction I have just noted.

[Question] How do you view Lebanese-Syrian relations?

[Answer] Relations between Lebanon and Syria must be brotherly relations in every sense of the word because our interests are joint, the dangers threatening us are the same and our ultimate destiny is the same.

There must be firm cooperation between the two countries at all political, security and economic levels.

This relationship must be privileged over the other relationships, even with our Arab brothers, because our ties to sisterly Syria are actually distinguished. Ultimately, stability and security in Lebanon and Syria are the same.

[Question] How do you evaluate the role of the correction movement at the local and Arab levels?

[Answer] The results of the Syrian correction movement's role have surfaced through all the developments that have taken place in the Arab area. It is proven that Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has become the main base of steadfastness in the Arab homeland against the Israeli enemy and against all imperialist ambitions.

The latest developments in the Arab arena have come to prove this reality as if it were a given fact.

If we observe what is going on in the Arab homeland currently, we find the pan-Arab line adopted by Syria and the defeatist line that is dealing with Israel and that is falling at the feet of the United States.

A movement with such results is a historic movement in the Arab area and it will continue to be the actual and true center of polarization for Arab hopes and aspirations against their enemies and for their own progress.

Insofar as we in Lebanon are concerned, this movement is one of our big hopes for rescue from the tribulation we are suffering. I believe that the successive Lebanese administrations have tried all the means and have even resorted, under conditions of abandonment, to Israel and the United States. Ultimately, it has been proven that there is no friend for Lebanon and nothing to help save it other than an understanding with sisterly Syria under the leadership of President al-Asad.

Resistance Option First

[Question] Do you think that Lebanon's resorting to the negotiations helps it do away with escalating the armed struggle and with supporting the national resistance?

[Answer] Supporting the Lebanese national resistance is the national duty of all the Lebanese. The national resistance operations must be escalated to force the Israeli enemy to speed up its withdrawal from the south, Western al-Biqa' and Rashayya. But there is no such a thing as a single option. The national resistance's objective is to liberate

the land and to restore national sovereignty. The military "negotiations" flow into this framework and, at the same time, do not undermine our pan-Arab position or our national dignity because they are taking place under the auspices of the United Nations. It can even be said that these negotiations have crowned the escalation in the national resistance's operations. This is why we believe that the national resistance and the military negotiations complement each other.

Committees

[Question] The internal solution will pass through special committees formed by the government and entrusted with the task of reaching agreement on the reforms. Do you think that these committees are qualified to achieve this, and what is the Chamber of Deputies' position vis-a-vis these committees?

[Answer] The committees formed by the government are advisory committees that include truly patriotic specialists. These committees may be important because they are capable of offering beneficial opinions on which the government can rely for the reform-oriented aspect of the internal solution.

As for the Chamber of Deputies, it is not concerned with these committees, which are committees formed by the government to reach whatever conclusions they deem fit and to present these conclusions to the Chamber which will then make the proper resolution on them.

[Question] Could any conflict develop between the government's position and the Chamber of Deputies' position vis-a-vis these ideas?

[Answer] Such conflict ends ultimately in the interest of the chamber because what it decides gets to be applied.

[Question] Lebanon is on the threshold of an internal settlement in the wake of the failure of the previous settlements. What, in your opinion, is the framework for the possible settlement?

[Answer] I believe that Lebanon can attain a realistic settlement through agreement on principles that include the principles of liberating the territories occupied by the Israeli enemy and the principle of restoring the unity of Lebanon's territories, people and institutions.

As for the internal form of government, I call for developing the 1943 charter and, along with this, bolstering the sense of citizenship [al-muwatiniyah] so that no side may feel the need for protection from the other and no side may feel the need for domination over the other. If we amend the election law by expanding the election district and making all of Lebanon a single district and if we then begin to abolish denominationalism as a start toward abolishing political sectarianism, then we will be able to rebuilt Lebanon in a manner that guarantees stability and equality and justice for all Lebanese.

National Front

[Question] How do you view the justifications for the declaration of the Lebanese National Democratic Front?

[Answer] The foundation of the National Democratic Front is a national requirement in the current phase, especially since sectarian division has emerged in more than one Lebanese area. There had to be a front to stand in the face of this division, not to mention standing in the face of the attempts to Arabize Camp David in the area and in the face of the pressure that these attempts exert on the internal front. This requires the creation of a national framework that is an effort to bolster the internal arena in the face of any Arab reactionary tide that may influence Lebanon and, consequently, Syria through the Lebanese arena.

We hope that this front will be developed and transformed into a comprehensive national movement, keeping in mind that the conditions that contributed to the birth of the previous National Movement are not different from the conditions under which the National Democratic Front has been formed.

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LEBANON

AMAL OFFICIAL REVIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION, RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 3 Dec 84 p 8

[Interview with Ghassan al-Sablani, member of Amal's Political Bureau, by 'Abdallah Khalid: "We Are Strategic Allies of Syria and Our Relations with It Are Everlasting; Syria Is Only Country Working To Solve Lebanon's Problems"]

[Text] Dr Ghassan al-Sablani, a member of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau, asserted that Amal has its vision, its plan and its clear relationship with Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad.

In an interview with TISHRIN, al-Sablani said: We are strategic allies of Syria and our relationship with it is an everlasting relationship, especially since Syria is the country that stands steadfast in the face of Israel and its supporters and since it is the only country exerting efforts to solve Lebanon's problems and help it overcome its tribulation. Sisterly Syria has used all the means and has paid dearly and is still paying dearly for this end. Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] What is your conception of the real situation in Lebanon at present?

[Answer] The economic and security situation in Lebanon is unstable. From the security aspect, there are numerous parties in the arena. The opportunists who benefit from the state of turmoil try hard to maintain this state so that they may protect their existence. There is no doubt that the faction dealing with the enemy directly or indirectly is the faction that always resorts to exploding the security situation whenever concerted efforts are being made by the Syrian brothers to overcome the security difficulties. It is evident that the latest security explosion is a testimony to this fact.

What helps the turmoil is the poor economic situation in Lebanon. This situation contributes directly to escalating the turmoil because the monies that flow into Lebanon to serve the factions that detonate the security situation from time to time find the right climate for escalation.

But it is noticed that all the Lebanese feel a dire need for unity and for solving their problems and that they fear the state of radicalism sweeping the country.

[Question] What is the impact of the 6 February Movement on the situation in West Beirut?

[Answer] After 6 February, the victors experienced the ecstasy of triumph and those who had been afraid to emerge to the streets, even under the protection of their weapons, felt free and began to move under the canopy of sectarianism at times and under partisan slogans at others. On the other hand, the defeated side tried to strengthen its assault on and its stand against the uprising by resorting to the use of secret means. The best proof of this is the stance of spectator taken by the internal security forces to which Beirut's security was entrusted. According to our information, the security forces took that stance according to instructions given them not to pay attention to the security situation so that people may yearn for the past.

It is also noticed that the sectarian slogans and sectarian spirit escalated in that period and that this was evident in the unofficial, and at times even in the official, broadcasting stations.

Some hirelings were found hanging posters and slogans on walls and then tearing them up and replacing them on the next day to create confusion and spread sectarian rancor. We must not forget that Israel has a hand in torpedoing the internal situation in the western area and in spreading confusion through its hired agents.

[Question] What is the successful means to eliminate this confusion?

[Answer] The best means to eliminate this confusion and to restore tranquillity and confidence to the western area and to all the Lebanese territories is to restore the just and legitimate government for whose restoration we in Amal have called since 6 February. We have put ourselves at the disposal of the Sixth Brigade and of the internal security forces. But the administration refused at the time to be armed and to cooperate with the legitimate forces in the western area by cutting off their weapons and munitions, thus causing the legitimate government in this area to be troubled and disabled at times.

What is required today is for the administration to resort to supporting and arming the army in the western area and to instruct the security forces to resume their activities because, in our opinion, there is no alternative to a just and legitimate government and there is nobody in the arena who wants to replace it.

[Question] But you are a part of the government.

[Answer] It is not enough for one to enter the cabinet in order that he may be a part of the government. We are a faction in the cabinet trying to be a part of the government. Since we entered the cabinet, we have noticed that we have not been able to achieve any results for Lebanon's unity and justice on the ground, even though we have achieved some objectives in the government, such as appointment of the head of the State Security Agency and the issuance of a number of decrees and directives--decrees and directives that have not been implemented yet.

We notice that the administration is trying to procrastinate, even on the issues already agreed upon. This puts us in a difficult position because the people who have carried the arms expect reforms. If we do not achieve these reforms, the people will resort to other means.

[Question] What have the committees formed done so far?

[Answer] We have accomplished nothing and it has been proven to us that burying anything requires no more than forming a committee. We wonder: why were the committees not summoned to meet until long after they were formed? Moreover, what have the committees reached in their action? Even if these committees have achieved some results, will these results be crystallized at the practical level in decrees and decisions?

We have agreed on a number of things in the cabinet but they have not actually been translated on the ground, especially since the committee's action is tied to a set time limit which is about to expire, with the committees able to achieve only 1 decree and keeping in mind that the decrees requiring study amount to 160 decrees. This is just an example.

[Question] Does this mean that there has been no progress whatsoever?

[Answer] There has been, of course, some modification. All the influential factions in the Lebanese arena have met in a national cabinet. But no solutions have been found for the problems of the Lebanese. These problems are now quiet because of the dialogue. But how long will they continue to be quiet?

[Question] Do you think that 10 years of fighting can be eliminated in a few days?

[Answer] It is impossible to wipe out 10 years of fighting in a few days or months. But a patient shows certain symptoms when he is about to recover.

Until the moment, we are still examining and studying the disease and we have not started the treatment because the treatment lies in backtracking to and dealing with the causes that generated the explosion in 1975. Deprivation, the lack of participation, inequality before the law and the absence of the feeling of freedom among the citizens pushed these citizens toward the 10-year war. All these issues continue to be the same as they were.

[Question] Aren't you afraid that a big dose of the medicine may kill the patient instead of curing him?

[Answer] The desired cure must, of course, be administered very carefully and precisely. But we must start. We must examine the Lebanese institutions and must deal with their structures, proceeding from this point to deal with the situation of the country as a whole. Nobody would be able to dominate the army or interfere in its affairs if the army's structure were acceptable. We have not yet moved to correct the army structure. Even though decrees to reorganize the army have been issued by the cabinet, these decrees have not been actually implemented yet. We must also move to restructure and reorganize the Lebanese institutions in a sound manner.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the Lebanese government's efforts?

[Answer] There is no doubt that formation of the cabinet is a start toward achieving unity among the Lebanese and restoring tranquillity and stability to Lebanon. But we fear that if this cabinet fails to achieve results rapidly, the people will not be able to wait long, especially if they do not see the early signs of recovery. The transformation from optimism to caution constitutes the start of the transformation from support for the cabinet to struggle and even to hostility toward it. Therefore, some reforms must be effected quickly so that this may constitute proof of the cabinet's intention to save Lebanon.

[Question] What is your evaluation of al-Naqurah negotiations?

[Answer] We know that the negotiations taking place in al-Naqurah are the result of the national resistance of our kinsmen in the south, Western al-Biq'a' and Rashayya.

Israel tried to extinguish this resistance but failed and this is why it began to seek other means.

The national resistance has compelled Israel to agree to the negotiations which will compel Israel to withdraw.

A foreign journalist told me more than 6 months ago that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon. When I asked him the reasons, he said that it is enough to stand at the crossing point between Lebanon and the occupied territories and see the number of dead soldiers or of soldiers transported daily from Lebanon to the hospitals of the occupied territories--it is enough to see this to say that Israel, which was not accustomed to incurring such losses in the past, will withdraw from Lebanon.

The current negotiations will falter because arrogant Israel refuses to withdraw defeated or to negotiate by force. This is why we find that it has escalated in the past few days in acts of aggression against the

citizens and against the peaceful villages in the south, especially since the negotiations are taking place within the framework of the military truce agreement and under the auspices of the United Nations, which is something Israel has been rejecting.

I was in the United States 2 weeks ago when Arens was appealing to the United States to intervene quickly to rescue Israel from the Lebanese swamp.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the Lebanese-Syrian relationship?

[Answer] From the beginning and until this moment, we have had our well-known line and vision and our clear relationship with Syria and the Syrian brothers, led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

We are strategic allies of Syria and our relationship with it is an everlasting relationship, especially since it is the country standing fast in the face of Israel and its supporters.

Syria is the only country exerting efforts to solve Lebanon's problems and to help Lebanon overcome its tribulation. Sisterly Syria has used all the means and has paid and continues to pay dearly for this end.

There is no doubt that the nationalists' stance in Lebanon would not have been this strong if it hadn't been for generous Syrian support. The 17 May accord would not have been abolished had it not been for the commendable Syrian efforts and for the concern of President al-Asad and of Vice President Khaddam. Lebanon would not have begun to overcome and will not overcome its tribulation if the Syrian efforts had not been started and if they do not continue.

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SYRIA

BENEFITS OF AL-KHABUR DAM DISCUSSED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by 'Adil Hadidi: "Al-Khabur Basin Project To Irrigate 150,000 Hectares of Reclaimed Lands in al-Hasakah Governorate"]

[Text] With the onset of the blessed March revolution, attention is being devoted to the generous al-Hasakah Governorate and theoretical studies were initiated to utilize its riches, beginning with the oil in its bowels and ending with its agricultural resources. These studies moved from the sphere of paper to the sphere of actual implementation with the start of the correction procession, and plants and factories have been set up in all parts of al-Hasakah Governorate. Schools and other service and production installations have been built and electricity and paved roads have reached most of the villages of the governorate, which is preparing to enter the arena of the modern age and to enjoy its accomplishments and inventions. All these edifices and accomplishments have been crowned with laying the cornerstone for the biggest project in this governorate, namely the project to irrigate and reclaim al-Khabur River basin. Actual construction began on 8 March 1983 when construction of the main collection canal [al-ma'kadh al-ra'isi] near the town of Ra's al-'Ayn was started. More than 85 percent of this part of the project has been completed. The greatness of this project emerges through the major changes and developments it will create at the economic and social levels by putting the cultivable lands currently exploited by conventional agricultural methods to ideal use through adoption of the modern agricultural methods and through creation of a stable climate for the farmers especially and for the rural population generally. This will be accomplished through the utilization of vast areas according to modern agricultural and irrigation methods.

We Are Building Edifice of Modern Syria with Our National Expertise

The significance and distinction of al-Khabur basin irrigation project emanates from the fact that the project is being built with our national expertise and by the hands of our technicians who work in the public sector construction companies, which are considered one of the fruits of the glorious correction movement. On the other hand, this project will introduce a real agricultural revolution to the agricultural al-Hasakah

Governorate by replacing all the methods currently followed in the agricultural sector, thus making it possible to reap large production from vast areas of cultivable land where the backward conventional methods have been followed and where most of the land is dryfarmed and yields low production.

On the progress of work in al-Khabur basin irrigation project and the importance of this work, Eng Fu'ad Qiryu, the director of the eastern district of the Ministry of Irrigation's Land Reclamation Directorate, told us:

This project is considered one of the biggest and most important agricultural and economic projects. Construction of the first part of the project, namely the collection canal near Ra's al-'Ayn, was started in mid-1983. This project seeks to develop the eastern part of the country generally and al-Hasakah Governorate in particular, since the project will irrigate nearly 1.5 million donums of fertile land extending from Ra's al-'Ayn town to al-Sur town, and beyond, in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. It will utilize the full course of al-Khabur River whose surface water resources are estimated at 1.6 billion cubic meters and its underground water resources at 400 million cubic meters. This can be accomplished by redistributing the annual flow according to an irrigation program and through storage dams with sufficient storage capacity. These dams are comprised of Western al-Hasakah dam, Eastern al-Hasakah dam and al-Khabur dam. The cost of implementing the project amounts to nearly 5 billion Syrian pounds. A study has been conducted on regulating the maximum utilization of the underground water existing in al-Khabur River basin so as to avoid the future depletion of this resource. The study has also provided the technical and economic indicators that make us build two major electric power plants, the first on al-Hasakah dam and the second on al-Khabur dam.

Practical Steps Completed So Far

Eng Fu'ad Qiryu went to add that after approval of the executive program concerning the material and financial lines of the implementation stages, the go-ahead signal for the construction of the first parts of the first phase of this project was given. This phase includes 42,000 hectares, including nearly 23,000 hectares to be irrigated by gravitation and 19,000 hectares to be irrigated with pumped water. Nearly 90 percent of the main collection canal near the town of Ra's al-'Ayn has been completed. This part has been built by the Public Irrigation Installation Company. This collection canal will regulate the flow of the water from all of al-Khabur River springs to the main canal of this project (left bank canal), which will be nearly 62 km long and will end in the Western al-Hasakah dam lake. A contract has also been concluded with the Public Irrigation Installation Company to build the main canal, which is referred to technically by the BM 1-2 symbol. This canal will have a maximum disposal capacity of 45,000 cubic meters per second, will have its own industrial installations and fields and will cost 873 million

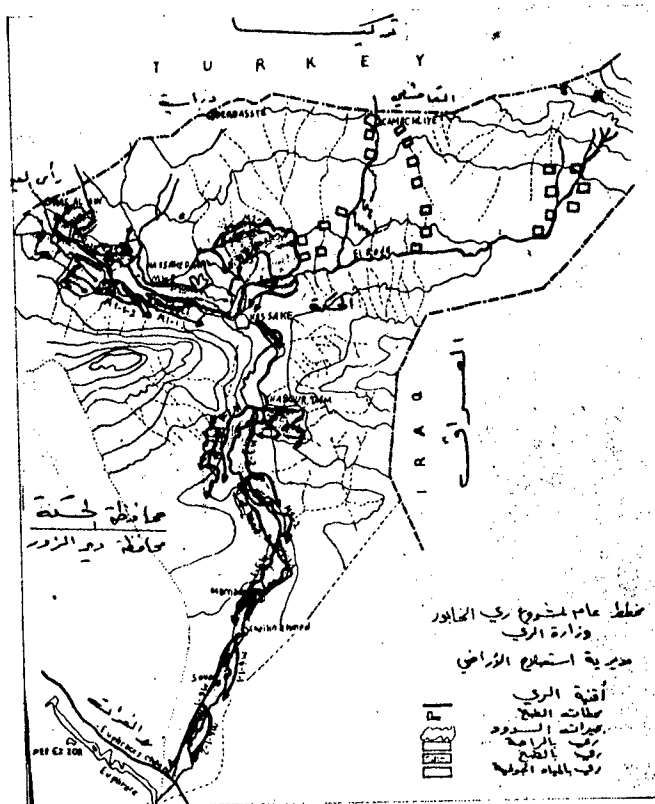
Syrian pounds. It will irrigate 12,000 hectares and will supply western and eastern al-Hasakah dams with water. Within the resources available to it, the company has begun to prepare the courses of this canal, which will go into actual operation when the equipment needed for the project is delivered.

I would like to point out here that this canal will supply eastern and western al-Hasakah dams with the water they need to irrigate 45,000 hectares and to generate electric power amounting to 12 megawatts. The two dams have a storage capacity of 330 million cubic meters.

Moreover, a contract has been concluded with al-Rasafah Building and Construction Company to build the main canal on the right bank which will get its water from the left bank canal via a duct under al-Khabur River. This canal will have a maximum disposal capacity of 15,000 cubic meters per second and will irrigate nearly 51,000 hectares. We must keep in mind that the management has the dossiers concerning numerous parts of this project and these dossiers are ready for contracts to be concluded for them in the next 5-year plan.

The project also includes al-Khabur dam, in addition to the eastern and western al-Hasakah dams, which has a storage capacity of 665 million cubic meters to accommodate the winter flood waters which go to waste, to store and regulate the maximum utilization of this water to irrigate 50,000 hectares in al-Hasakah and Dayr al-Zawr governorates and to generate 8 megawatts of electric power. In the long run, this project will create an advanced scientific agricultural revolution whose positive impact will be reflected in the country's economic and social life generally and in the life of al-Hasakah Governorate in particular.

Large areas will be irrigated by sprinkling. This is the latest scientific agricultural method because it puts an end to the big waste in water. We will set up an experimental farm with an area of 500 hectares to conduct tests on irrigation by sprinkling for a variety of the area's crops. This project will lead to the development of housing and to improvement of the social situation through the establishment of numerous model villages in the project area. This will, in turn, eliminate the current situation which creates numerous service problems in the villages. The project will also help develop food industries which will be set up to utilize the agricultural resources in an ideal manner.



General Plan for al-Khabur Irrigation Project
Ministry of Irrigation
Land Reclamation Administration

LEGEND: Irrigation Canals
Pumping stations
Dam lakes
(Drip) Irrigation
Pump Irrigation
Irrigation by ground water

8494

CSO: 4404/157

SYRIA

ELECTRICITY STATISTICS REVIEWED FROM 1979 TO PRESENT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by Shadiyah al-Barudi: "Big Development Undergone by Electricity Sector During Correction Years; Electricity Production Has Grown Eightfold and Distribution Lines Have Increased From 472 Km to 4,108 Km"]

[Text] The corrective movement has devoted special and distinguished attention to the country's electricity sector. Under this movement, hardly a few years have passed before it set up the Ministry of Electricity which was entrusted with the task of planning to cover the country's electric energy needs, to implement the scheduled projects to achieve this objective and to produce, transmit, distribute and utilize electrical energy and to supply this energy in a manner compatible with the country's social and economic development.

In recent years and with the support of the leader of our procession, President Hafiz al-Asad, the country's electricity sector has progressed and made strides in the sphere of electrical power production and distribution and we would not be exaggerating if we said that this sector has surpassed time and the resources and has accomplished for us in this regard what used to be considered an impossibility.

In the following lines, we will try to review briefly some of these accomplishments:

In Sphere of Energy Production

The energy generated in 1970 amounted to nearly 777 million kilowatt/hours. In 1975, this energy rose to 1,353,000,000 kilowatt/hours and grew to 3,637,000,000 kilowatt/hours in 1980 and to 6,131,000,000 kilowatt/hours in 1983. This means that energy production rose eightfold in 13 years. On the other hand, the maximum capacity amounted to 174 megawatts in 1970 and grew to 292 megawatts in 1975, to 770 megawatts in 1980 and to 1,237 megawatts in 1983, meaning that it has multiplied sevenfold in 13 years.

New Generation Projects

The compounded capacity amounted to nearly 214 megawatts in 1970, then dropped to its lowest level in the wake of the October 1973 liberation war and declined to only 42 megawatts in the wake of the bombing of al-Hamah and Qutayfah power plants by the Zionist enemy. We will demonstrate in the following the development of this compounded capacity:

In 1970, the compounded capacity amounted to 214 megawatts. In the wake of the 1973 war, this capacity dropped to 42 megawatts and then rose to 650 megawatts in 1975, to 1,547 megawatts in 1980 and to 1,931 megawatts in 1983, meaning that it grew sevenfold in 13 years. This was accomplished through construction of the following plants:

Al-Thawrah Power Plant

The first phase of this plant, consisting of three turbines with a capacity of 300 megawatts, was completed in 1974. The entire plant, including eight turbines with a capacity of 800 megawatts, was completed in 1978.

Mahradah Power Plant

This plant, with a capacity of 300 megawatts, was completed in 1979-80.

Baniyas Power Plant

This plant, with a capacity of 340 megawatts, was completed in 1982-83.

Gas Turbine Plants

Fourteen gas turbines, each with a capacity of 20 megawatts, have been installed since the October liberation war to overcome the severe shortage in power production emanating from the bombing of al-Hamah and al-Qutayfah plants during the October liberation war.

Qutayfah power plant has also been strengthened in addition to a sixth complex with a capacity of 64 megawatts. This unit was put into operation in 1981.

In Sphere of Power Transmission

In the sphere of power transmission, all of the country's governorates have been linked by a uniform network operating on a tension of 230 kilovolts and 66 kilovolts. The country's first 400-kilovolt line was built between Damascus and Hims in 1983. This line has been put into temporary operation at a 230-kilovolt tension.

On the other hand, the length of the 230-kilovolt lines amounted to 472 km in 1970 and increased to 1,051 km in 1975, to 3,344 km in 1980 and to 4,108 km in 1983, meaning that the length of the 230-kilovolt tension lines increased nearly ninefold in 13 years.

Number of Subscribers to Electric Power

In 1970, the number of subscribers amounted to 442,307. In 1975, the number rose to 601,720 subscribers. In 1980, it grew to 1,058,258 subscribers and in 1983, the number grew to 1,456,377 subscribers, meaning that the number of subscribers rose nearly threefold in 13 years.

In Sphere of Rural Electrification

Since its establishment in 1974, the Ministry of Electricity has devoted ceaseless attention to rural electrification by virtue of this electrification's big impact on the social and cultural development of the rural population, in addition to the possibility of creating in the various parts of the countryside small industries that attract this population and curtail the emigration of rural inhabitants. In its fourth 5-year plan, the ministry underlined the need to supply electricity to all villages with a population of more than 1,000 people. In its fifth 5-year plan, the ministry included all villages with a population of more than 500 people. In implementing rural electrification, the Ministry of Electricity has surpassed all the set plans out of its belief in the importance of this electrification and in the implementation of the instructions of his excellency the president of the republic. We will demonstrate in the following the number of towns and villages supplied with electricity since the start of the correction movement:

In 1970, the number of electrified towns and villages amounted to 229. In 1975, the number rose to 405 villages, in 1980 to 2,039 villages and in 1983 to 4,900 villages, meaning that the number of electrified villages grew more than 21 times in 13 years.

As for the number of beneficiaries from electric power, they amounted to 53 percent of the population in 1970 and rose to 58 percent in 1975, to 75 percent in 1980 and to 86 percent in 1983. This accomplishment is one of the correction movement's greatest accomplishments.

Other Accomplishments

The Ministry of Electricity has also set up two plants for the production of cement poles with a capacity of 75,000 poles. The first line of Dayr al-Zawr plant, with an annual production capacity of 25,000 poles, was completed in 1982. The second line in Dayr al-Zawr plant, also with a capacity of 25,000 poles a year, was completed in 1984. The first line of Hims plant, with an annual capacity of 25,000 poles, is expected to go into operation shortly. The ministry has also set up a maintenance workshop in 'Adra area for the repair of electrical equipment. This workshop went into operation in 1983.

Two kindergartens were opened in Damascus and Aleppo in 1983 for the children of the ministry's female workers.

The Middle-level Electricity and Mechanics Institute was set up in 'Adra and graduated its first class in 1979. By 1983, the number of graduates rose to 591 students. The Ministry of Electricity is also setting up two branches of the said institute in Aleppo and Latakia.

Future Aspirations

To be able to keep pace with the increased future consumption of electricity, the Ministry of Electricity has taken the following steps:

It has concluded a contract with the Soviet Union to build a power plant near the city of Damascus with a capacity of 2x400 megawatts. This plant is expected to be completed in 1989.

The ministry has completed a study of offers to enlarge the Mahradah power plant to 2x150 megawatts. It is expected that the contract for this enlargement will be concluded before the end of this year.

The Ministry has invited international bids to enlarge the Baniyas power plant. It is expected that the contract for this enlargement will be concluded by the middle of 1985.

The Ministry of Electricity is preparing the technical specification books to invite international bids for the construction of a gas-powered plant with a capacity of 150 megawatts in al-Suwaydiyah area. It is expected that the contract for this plant will be concluded in the second quarter of 1985.

The Ministry of Electricity is studying the siting of the country's first nuclear plant, with a capacity of 2x440 megawatts. It is expected that this study will be completed in 1986 and that the contract for this plant will be concluded in 1987.

The Ministry of Electricity, in cooperation with the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, is studying the possibility of utilizing shale rock and natural gas to generate electric power in the 1990's.

The Ministry of Electricity, in cooperation with the Ministry of Irrigation, is studying the possibility of utilizing all the country's water resources to generate electric power.

In Sphere of Transmission

The Ministry of Electricity will complete the country's 400-kilovolt network in the fifth and sixth 5-year plans and will also link this network with Iraq and Turkey so that the 400-kilovolt link with Iraq may constitute a part of the Arab electrical link.

In Sphere of Distribution

The Ministry of Electricity will continue to supply electricity to subscribers at the rate of an increase of 120,000 subscribers a year. It will also enhance the tension and offer power regularly to all subscribers.

In Sphere of Rural Electrification

The ministry will complete electrification of the countryside by 1990 and will supply electricity to all villages with a population of more than 100 people.

In Sphere of Services

The Ministry of Electricity will complete construction of the plants producing concrete poles. Along with the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Electricity will try to manufacture electrical appliances in the country, if this proves to be economically feasible. Moreover, it will offer the citizens better services and will insure an uninterrupted power supply.

8494

CSO: 4404/157

AFGHANISTAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTS ON SECRET POLICE ACTIVITIES

GF121818 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari
1715 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Summary from poor reception] A source of the Mujahidin fighters of our country informed the Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan that the Karmal mercenary regime, in continuation of its intrigues for separating our refugee brothers from our refugee sisters now in refuge in several neighboring countries, have now sent 350 members of the satanic Khad secret police to Iran. The source adds that the mercenaries are required to enter Pakistan in the clothes of our Mujahidin brothers and then enter the Islamic Republic of Iran to begin their crimes and killings.

The source said that our Muslim brothers in Iran are well aware of the Karmal regime's tactics against the Muslim Afghan refugees. Keeping this in view the Karmal regime has selected these Khad personnel from the province of Farah, Nimruz, and Herat, which border Iran, and has charged them with the duty of making contact with traitorous elements in Iran. The self-sold persons also have been promised that if they escape capture by the Iranian security forces and return safely to Afghanistan, they will be given rewards.

CSO: 4665/32

AFGHANISTAN

MOBILE FORCE AMBUSHED BY MUJAHIDIN

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Jan 85 p 5

[Text]

The Afghan Mujahideen turned to pieces a helicopter gunship which landed near Mujahideen fortifications outside Farah town due to a technical fault. According to AAP sources a Soviet helicopter in the course of an overflight was forced to land 10 km from Farah town on December 28 near Mujahideen's positions. The Mujahideen smashed the helicopter with four men crew by rocket launchers. It is further reported that Soviet planes bombed the area soon after the destruction of the helicopter. Meanwhile, Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy near Farsi town the north eastern sub-divisional headquarter of Farah province on Dec. 28. The Mujahideen were successful in destroying a tank and an oil tanker. During the clash, four Soviet Karmal troops including a Soviet Officer were killed.

Two Mujahideens were martyred and 13 others sustained injuries.

A Mobile Force Ambushed by Mujahideen

According to the reports received from Qandahar, a Mujahid guerrilla group ambushed a mobile military force in Loi Karez area of Spin Buldak sub-division where two tanks were destroyed by rocket launcher fires while six crew members were killed.

In the operation four Karmal soldiers were captured along with the arms and ammunition. They were later handed over to the Court of liberated areas.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters attacked a security post near Panjwai Town on the morning of December 4 where nine Soviets were killed and a tank was destroyed. The Mujahideen captured 8 Kalashnikov rifles during the attack and returned without suffering any loss.

Afghan Mujahideen damaged two Soviet aircraft and a helicopter gunship during the raid on Qandahar airport, while a Soviet military officer and designate provincial Director of Karmal Intelligence Department 'Khad' were killed in Qandahar, AAP sources reported that equipped with rocket launchers and mortar guns, a group of urban

guerrilla Mujahideen struck at Qandahar airport on the night of Dec.31. where after eliminating 12 Soviet Karmal troops, Mujahideen hit two Soviet planes and a gunship with rocket fires on the runway. Earlier the Mujahideen on Dec.29 shot dead a Soviet military officer and his guard near the outer gate of his residence. According to another report the Mujahideen on the same night killed Najeeb Khan, a local leader of Parcham faction who was designated as provincial director of 'Khad' who had returned recently after receiving 'Ideological Training' in Moscow.

Supreme Council of the Seven Party Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen was established to strengthen and channelise resistance movement against Soviet imperialism.

Soviet Troops

Three Soviet militarymen belonging to occupied territories of Kazakistan and Ukraine have accepted Islam and joined the resistance movement. Quoting the sources of Baghlan provincial Mujahideen AAP reported that two soldiers who belong to Ukraine were named Nusratullah and Islamuddin while the third one Rehmatullah is drawn from Kazakistan. Nusratullah was Sergeant in the Soviet Army who was captured two years earlier from supply center of Qilagai. The Soviet soldier Islamuddin was arrested by Mujahideen near Pul-e-Chakri.

CSO: 4600/259

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

HERAT UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL--Mashad, Khorassan Province, Jan 28 (IRNA)-- The city of Herat has been most of the time under the Mujahideen control, said Muhammad Ismaiel Khan, an Afghan Mujahideen commander in an interview with IRNA Sunday. He said the recent attacks by the Soviet and Afghan forces on the Mujahideen strongholds around Herat have been a total failure. He added, in each attack the occupying Soviet and Afghan government forces deploy large number of tanks and armored units because they fear the retaliation of the Mujahideen. During the past ten months, the Soviets have launched eight attacks on the Mujahideen positions and in each attack they have employed more than 1,000 tanks and military vehicles and some 80 fighter planes and helicopters, Khan added. The objective of such attacks around Herat and nearby villages, he said, was to block the border strip. Following these attacks, he added, some 200 villages around Herat have been evacuated. The Soviet forces are trying to impose an economic siege against the Mujahideen, by destroying the crops of the villages. Meanwhile, in another development, in a surprise attack last week on an armored unit of the Soviet and government forces near the Shindand air base in Farah Province, the Afghan Mujahideen inflicted heavy casualties and damages. The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters sources in Zahedan, Sistan Baluchestan Province said that following the attack six Afghan soldiers surrendered to the Mujahideen. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Jan 85 p 1]

PLOT AGAINST KARMAL-- According to facts available and reports received, a source with information about the ever-widening rift between the Khalq and Parcham factions of the Afghan Communist Party said that recently a group among the Khalq members approached one Abdul Sattar from among the servants of Babrak Karmal. They told him that if he would kill Babrak Karmal they would give him a big reward. However, that particular servant of Babrak Karmal did not accept the proposal and the Khalq members, in order to keep the secret plot against Babrak Karmal, killed Abdul Sattar. [Summary from poor reception] [(Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 12 Feb 85]

CSO: 4665/31

INDIA

GANDHI 15 JAN SPEECH TO CONGRESS-I MP'S REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 15--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today gave an assurance of the Congress party adopting a liberal attitude towards the opposition.

Addressing over 500 party MPs from both houses of Parliament who comprise the Congress parliamentary party, Mr Gandhi stated firmly that the party's massive majority would not be used to suppress the opposition or anyone else. He declared that he was determined to strengthen democracy.

Speaking first in Hindi and then in English, Mr Gandhi was often cheered during his 50-minute speech in the course of which he referred to the two major issues of Punjab and Assam on the domestic front and to Pakistan and Sri Lanka while discussing the security environment around India.

Stating that the issues in Punjab and Assam could be resolved if the parties concerned ended their posture of confrontation, Mr Gandhi said that extremism and terrorism in Punjab must end and a congenial atmosphere created for meaningful talks to be held.

Foreign Policy

The Prime Minister pointed out that the solution to the two problems would have to be found within the framework of the Indian constitution. The government was ready and willing to negotiate but not at the cost of the nation's integrity. In this context, he stated that the government could not go beyond certain limits in meeting the demands of the parties concerned.

Mr Gandhi stated that the steps taken by his government to resolve the two issues had made some headway. But he did not elaborate.

While dwelling on foreign affairs, Mr Gandhi did not name any country but asserted that time-tested friends which had helped India in the past and on whom this country could rely upon at all times would be kept in mind while forging and strengthening friendship with other countries.

On Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister said that though it was purely their internal matter, what happened there had its repercussions on India. For instance, 40,000 refugees had crossed over to this side in the wake of widespread violence there. He was hopeful of finding a political solution to the problem which would pave the way for their return to Sri Lanka.

PTI & UNI add: Mr Gandhi said that some headway had been made in talks with China. He expressed his happiness that the talks were progressing satisfactorily. "But the way is long," he said.

Mr Gandhi welcomed the Geneva disarmament talks.

Indian Ocean Status

He expressed concern over the militarisation of the Indian Ocean and said India was not happy at this development. India wanted this area to be a zone of peace, he added.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for discipline in government and all walks of life and said that all efforts were being made to have a clean and efficient administration. The emphasis was on improving the quality of work.

About the 20-point programme, he said its pace of implementation would be stepped up and new schemes included in it.

Mr J.K. Jain, secretary, Congress party in Parliament, who briefed the press said the Prime Minister spoke at length about the achievements of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

India, Mrs Gandhi said, remained united and strong because of Mrs Gandhi's policies. The Congress could get such a massive majority in the elections because of her policies.

Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister said, had led the nation during very difficult times.

Mr Gandhi expressed anxiety over the accumulation of huge overdraft by three or four states and said the other states had to pay the price for this lapse.

He said all efforts were being made to have a clean and efficient administration.

About the functioning of the public sector, Mr Gandhi said hard decisions have to be taken to improve the performance of this sector.

He said if the pace of India's progress was not accelerated to catch up with advanced nations "we will be pushed to centuries behind."

India was left behind at the time of industrial revolution in the West and the result was that it lagged behind by 300 years. "We should not miss the opportunity now and prepare ourselves for the 21st century," he said.

The newly elected Congress members, half of them new, vied with each other to cheer Mr Gandhi.

The historic high-domed Central Hall of Parliament was jam packed with jubilant MPs congratulating each other at the electoral victory of the party.

Mr Gandhi said the people have "lot of expectations from us" and that during the next five years considerable work would have to be done to create a united and strong India of Mrs Indira Gandhi's dreams.

Without making any specific reference to the induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan, Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that the countries of the region would take steps to preserve peace and stability.

CSO: 4600/1303

INDIA

NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER APPOINTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 3--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has appointed Mr V.S. Venkataraman, who was Private Secretary to the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, as his Special Assistant in place of Mr R.K. Dhawan whose resignation has been accepted.

An officer of considerable administrative experience, he is now a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

As one who worked in various capacities with Lal Bahadur Shastri, when he was Minister for Railways and then Home Affairs, he was appointed Private Secretary to the Prime Minister during his brief tenure.

After Shastri's death, he was taken over by Mr K.C. Pant first as his Private Secretary when he was in the Ministries of Finance and Home, and later as a Special Assistant when he became a full Cabinet Minister in charge of Energy in Mr Charan Singh's Government.

He was appointed Private Secretary to Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, Minister of State in the Home Ministry before he was promoted as a Joint Secretary and posted in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms. He was subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

The Prime Minister has specially chosen Mr Venkataraman because of his ability and integrity since he wanted to have an officer with administrative experience and political detachment in this key post.

Meanwhile, the Secretary in charge of Economic Affairs in the Prime Minister's office, Mr Arjan Sen Gupta, an economist of great repute, is being sent to Washington in place of Mr R.N. Malhotra as an Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. The Economic Adviser to the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance, Mr M.A. Ahulwalia, is being shifted to the Prime Minister's office in Mr Sen Gupta's place.

CSO: 4600/1270

PRESS REPORTS EFFORTS TO SOLVE PUNJAB PROBLEM

Special Panel Appointed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 3--In a major initiative to resolve the Punjab problem, Mr Rajiv Gandhi today constituted a high-level ministerial committee to go into the whole gamut of Punjab affairs, reports UNI. The three-man committee consists of the Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, the Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Education Minister, Mr K.C. Pant.

Mr Gandhi is understood to have given broad guidelines to the committee to work on.

Mr Gandhi had recently stated in an interview, "We have some ideas about Punjab" and that all efforts would be made to resolve the problem.

During his electioneering, Mr Gandhi had emphasised that after the Congress (I) was voted back to power the first priority of the new Government would be to find a solution to the Punjab tangle. He had assured that the Government would make all efforts to get at the root cause of the problem and solve it amicably in the shortest possible time.

Mr Gandhi had said he had some ideas on solving the Punjab problem but had declined to elaborate on them. He had, however, been categorical at his election meetings that the Government would deal strongly with secessionist terrorist or any other anti-national activity.

On the Akali Dal's demands, Mr Gandhi said that most of these, including the religious ones, had already been acceded to and he was willing to have a dialogue on matters within the purview of the Constitution.

In this context, he observed that the Government could not accept the Anandpur Sahib resolution since that would lead to the country's disintegration.

Mr Gandhi had also sought the cooperation of the Akali Dal in making known its stand vis-a-vis terrorists and other anti-national elements.

He said that if the Akali dal did not clarify its position in unambiguous terms, then there might be reasons to believe of an understanding between them and those forces which wanted to weaken and create chaos in the country.

PTI adds: The Congress (I) today said there should not be any preconditions to resumption of talks on the Punjab tangle. Preconditions would only create difficulties, Mr Srikant Verma, M.P. and AICC (I) spokesman told reporters while commenting on the statements of certain Akali Dal leaders that there could be no solution to the Punjab problem until the Anandput Sahib resolution was accepted.

He suggested that all parties concerned over the Punjab problem come forward to find a solution. Mr Verma said the new Prime Minister had already given top priority to finding a solution to the Punjab issue, and in view of this, there should not be any preconditions attached.

Our Special Representative adds: It is to be recalled that Mr Narasimha Rao had been associated with the talks on Punjab in the earlier stages, before the "Blue Star" operation at the Amritsar Golden Temple. Even Mr Pant was sent to Punjab at one time for talks with the Akali leaders.

In a discussion broadcast by the AIR today, Mr Swaran Singh, former External Affairs Minister, who too was associated at one stage in the negotiations with the Akalis, and Mr Gurcharan Singh Randhawa, secretary of the Punjab unit of the CPI (M) asked the Prime Minister to immediately evolve a political solution to the Punjab problem to restore normalcy in the State.

They pleaded to both the Akalis and the Government to adopt a give-and-take approach and conciliatory attitude towards Punjab.

Mr Swaran Singh argued that raising a demand for more power to the State did not mean that the sponsors of the demand wanted to "give a blow to national integrity." He termed as "unfortunate" the fact that some people were getting divided on religious or communal lines. He asked the new Government to give full security to the minorities.

Mr Bir Devinder Singh, Chief Whip of the Congress (I) Legislature Party in Punjab and Mr Pratap Singh Bajwa, president of Youth Congress (I), Punjab, in a statement here described as "adamant and stubborn" the attitude of the Akali leaders. They said that the recent statements of Mr Surjan Singh Thekedar, ad hoc convener of the Shiromani Akali Dal and Mr Prem Singh Lalpura, acting president of the SGPC "are unfortunate," particularly at a time when the Prime Minister had made his mind known to the people that the Punjab problem was "number one" in his priorities and he would give the utmost importance to solving it. "It is high time that Sikhs in general and Akalis in particular realized the loss they have suffered in the past four years due to extremist postures adopted by Akalis."

Way Around Anandpur Sahib

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 3--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has set up a three-member ministerial group consisting of the Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, the Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Education Minister, Mr K.C. Pant, to review the Punjab situation and see what could be done to settle the Sikh problem.

This ministerial group is not strictly speaking a Cabinet committee, but it will report directly to the Prime Minister on how to open a new dialogue with the Akali leaders consistent with the stand taken by the Government during the previous negotiations.

Private Contact

The group will be empowered to establish private contact with the detained Akali leaders and impress on them the need for an unequivocal statement by them that they are prepared to seek a settlement within the framework of the Indian Constitution. This will be one way of disowning the Anandpur Sahib resolution without publicly repudiating it.

As he has already announced after the Lok Sabha elections, Mr Rajiv Gandhi wants to give the highest priority to resolving the Punjab tangle in a fair and equitable manner by meeting all legitimate demands of the Sikhs without sacrificing the Hindu interests in neighbouring Haryana and Rajasthan.

If the detained Sikh leaders are prepared to dissociate themselves with the secessionist demand of the extremists and declare their readiness to negotiate a settlement within the framework of the Constitution, the Government is prepared to release them and open a fresh dialogue for resolving the remaining points that blocked the earlier attempts to find a widely acceptable solution.

Early Elections

Apart from leading to an early restoration of normality in the State, a settlement will also open the way for early elections in Punjab both to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly along with the other States that are due to go to the polls soon. It will also provide an agreed political basis for the formation of a popular Government with adequate Sikh representation after the termination of President's rule.

But much would depend on how the Akali leadership is going to conduct itself, whether it will keep harping on past grievances and refusing all reasonable offers for a settlement or display the necessary imagination in resolving this tragic context with a strong Prime Minister well entrenched in office at the Centre.

It is not without significance that Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been taking some parallel steps to curb the capacity of the Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Bhajan Lal, for creating hurdles to such a settlement by exaggerating the dangers of the so-called Hindu backlash in other Northern States. One plausible reason for providing the controversial Mr Bansi Lal with a berth in the Central Cabinet could be to clip Mr Bhajan Lal's wings by counterbalancing his influence, since Mr Rajiv Gandhi has not taken kindly to him.

But unless the moderate Sikh leaders come forward to seize this opportunity for settling the Punjab problem, the detailed Akali hardliners may find it extremely embarrassing to go back publicly on the Anandpur Sahib resolution and seek a solution within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

Message to Opposition

The Prime Minister today had a message conveyed to the Opposition leaders, perhaps with the impending Punjab talks in mind, that he had no intention of using his massive majority to ignore their views on important national issues. The message was conveyed on his behalf by the new Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, who has been meeting them individually to pass on this assurance.

Mr Bhagat has met the DMKP president, Mr Charan Singh, the Janata Party chief, Mr Chandra Shekhar, the Congress (J) president, Mr Jagjivan Ram, the CPI leader, Mr Indrajit Gupta, the Telugu Desam secretary, Mr P. Upendra and the Janata leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate. He is also expected to get in touch with the BJP president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, and others to pass on this assurance.

Activities of Panel

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 6--The three-member ministerial group--consisting of the Home Minister Mr S.B. Chavan, the Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Education Minister, Mr K.C. Pant--has been meeting daily since its formation on January 2 to discuss various alternatives for settling the Punjab problem, but it has not yet evolved any new formula for cutting the Gordian knot and opening the way for finding a quick solution.

Though contact has been reestablished with the detained Akali leaders, no common ground has yet been established for an early resumption of negotiations with them.

Main Hurdle

The main hurdle at the moment is the Akali demand that all those Sikhs under detention against whom there are no pending criminal cases involving acts of violence should be released unconditionally to create the right atmosphere for a negotiated settlement.

The Akalis are no longer insisting on their concomitant plea that the Army should be withdrawn simultaneously to help restore normality in Punjab on the eve of these crucial negotiations. But they want press censorship to be lifted followed by the revocation of other restrictions empowering the police to make summary arrests and place the onus of proving one's innocence on the accused or suspected of violence.

These preliminary demands have to be tackled by the ministerial group before it can come to grips with substantial issues. After examining the pros and cons of different approaches, it will have to formulate a set of proposals for a package settlement of religious, political and other grievances.

Akalis Divided

But the big procedural problem still is with whom to negotiate since the Akali leadership remains sharply divided over both the concept and contents of a settlement. Consequently the Sikh leaders themselves are not clear in their minds about their negotiating and fallback positions for getting their basic demands accepted as part of an overall compromise to close the saddest chapter in India's history since independence.

A number of moderate Sikhs including some prominent businessmen have been meeting privately to explore the possibilities of acting as middlemen between the detained Akali leaders and the ministerial group to help overcome the initial hurdles. But apart from offering their good offices, they have not come forward with any new suggestions capable of acceptance by both sides.

The country as a whole has welcomed the decision of Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to give the highest priority to a settlement of the Punjab problem. But some critics who are no less keen on an early settlement have been privately voicing the view that in talking of a settlement within a specified time frame, he has given a chance to the Akali hardliners to insist on an acceptance of their preliminary demands for release of all those in detention as a prelude to the commencement of substantive negotiations.

It has been argued that the massive mandate he has received from the rest of the Indian people, after making Punjab the key issue in his election campaign, had led to a complete isolation of even those Sikhs who continue to entertain thoughts of a special position for themselves within the Indian Union, even if they are not in favour of the extremist demand for secession. The Sikh community, so the argument runs, has to go through a cooling off period to get over its smouldering sense of grievance before engaging in a realistic dialogue for a reasonable settlement.

But Mr Rajiv Gandhi does not, quite rightly, subscribe to this theory, since he believes that time is the very essence of the efforts under way for finding a quick solution, utilising the psychology of his massive mandate

to impress on Hindus as well as Sikhs that a strong Centre under his stewardship has the capacity and determination to safeguard the interest of both communities within the framework of the country's Constitution.

He was therefore not insisting on any preconditions other than stipulating that the Akalis must acknowledge that they are prepared to seek a settlement within this framework, leaving the details to be settled through negotiations. He is doing exactly what the former Prime Minister of France, Mendes France, had done to hustle both his countrymen and the leaders of Vietnam in 1954 to arrive at a settlement.

And Gen Charles de Gaulle, too, adopted the same tactics, deftly combining political compulsions with psychological pressures, to resolve the Algerian tangle in the face of stiff opposition within France.

CSO: 4600/1270

INDIA

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF REVIEWS ARMY DAY PARADE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 15--General A.S. Vaidya, chief of army staff, today took the salute at the Army Day parade in the capital as the stately contingents filed past to the beat of a march specially composed and named in his honour.

Also present on the occasion was General K.M. Cariappa (retd), the first Indian Commander-in-Chief who took over from General Sir F.R.R. Bucher on January 15, 1949.

The parade was a mix of the ancient and chivalrous with the modern and sophisticated from the 61st cavalry accounted in all its traditional resplendency to the forbidding, rumbling T-72 tanks.

After inspecting this impressive cross-section of the Indian army, General Vaidya declared that the army was ready to give a fitting reply to any aggressor. He said he had full faith in the dauntlessness of his soldiers and their ability to fight in such a manner that no enemy would even dare think of attacking us again.

The Indian army was matchless even if it did not possess as sophisticated arms as some other nations, because of the fighting mettle of its soldiers. In fact, the soldiers had also dealt with law and order problems in the country with discipline, courage and hard work. They had also risked their lives in rescue work during the recent Bhopal gas tragedy, General Vaidya noted.

He assured the army men that he was aware of the difficulties they were facing like lack of adequate housing and children's education and said he was tackling these issues.

Reviews Parade

Earlier, General Vaidya was received by Lieut-Gen K. Sundarji, GOC-in-C, western command, after which he reviewed the parade that was commanded by Maj-Gen J.S. Jamwal, GOC, Delhi area. The second-in-command was Brig A.S. Brar, commandant, Rajputana Rifle Regimental Centre.

General Vaidya also awarded the Sena medals to nine army men and a bar to the Sena medal to 29 others on the occasion.

UNI & PTI add: Attending his felicitations to all officers, junior commissioned officers, other ranks and civilians of the army, Gen Vaidya said in the past year the army had faced many challenges.

On every occasion the army had come out with flying colours in its best traditions, he said.

Gen Vaidya said the men of the force, coming from different states, underwent training and worked together in complete harmony with a feeling of belonging to the great nation.

"This is our biggest strength and we must never forget this," the chief of army staff pointed out.

Air Defence System

The special feature of today's parade was the exhibition of Kvadrat weapon system which is a very accurate and powerful deterrent to intruding enemy aircraft.

Other highlights were tanks fitted with trawls, mobile troposcatter equipment, rocket regiment, ZSU-23-4 rockets which provide low-level air defence to armoured formations, 130 mm catapult gun which is India's first indigenous self-propelled artillery piece and Vijayanta tanks.

General Vaidya later inaugurated a cable television system at the army hospital here to mark the Army Day celebrations.

A colourful magazine depicting the activities and history of the Indian army since 1947 was released also by Gen Vaidya.

A number of welfare schemes like housing, education and provision of facilities for treatment abroad have been launched by the defence ministry for serving and retired army personnel.

UNI adds: President Zail Singh, vice-president R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi attended a reception held by the chief of army staff, Gen A.S. Vaidya, to celebrate Army Day today.

The reception, held on the lawns of the Army House, was also attended by several cabinet ministers including the defence minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr P.C. Alexander, the chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre, the chief of naval staff, Admiral R.H. Tathiliani, senior government officials and military attaches of foreign missions here.

Lucknow (TOINS): Celebrating the taking over of the army command by an Indian general 36 years back, the Jawans marching in three columns saluted the general officer Commanding-in-Chief Central Command, Lieut-Gen Bhupinder Singh, at the Army Day celebrations here.

A huge crowd of spectators applauded the march-past of six contingents of troops headed by two mounted armed force units.

A tape recorded message of General Vaidya was relayed on the occasion.

Trivandrum: A spectacular parade by contingents of six infantry and artillery regiments and mounted columns, the first of its kind in the city, marked the celebration of Army Day here.

Southern Command GOC-in-C Lieut-Gen Depinder Singh took the salute.

Jammu: Lieutenant-General M.L. Chiber, general officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, today called upon the troops to rededicate themselves to the ideals for which many of the nation's brave officers and jawans have made supreme sacrifices in the defence of the nation. He was speaking at the Army Day parade held at the Maulana Azad stadium here.

Calcutta: In a message on the occasion of Army Day, Lt-General K. Chiman Singh, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command today called upon the army personnel to be alert about the dangers of divisive forces and keep the army free from such influences.

CSO: 4600/1303

INDIA

REPORTER NOTES COMPOSITION OF NEW LOK SABHA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by V.S. Maniam]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 3--The Eighth Lok Sabha, which will meet for the first time within a fortnight, will unquestionably be a new-look Lok Sabha. More than a fifth of its members are altogether new ones, some of them newcomers even to politics.

In the principal Opposition group--the Telugu Desam--all but two of the 28 members are newcomers to the Lok Sabha (as far as can be checked). And, if it is true that their party leader, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has issued a flat to them to wear only yellow clothes, they are certain to stand out as a solid block of colour.

Swami Indervesh, Lok Dal member from Rohtak, was the only one in the Seventh Lok Sabha who wore yellow ochre robes. He was a "sadhu" belonging to the Maharishi Dayanand Ashram. He will be absent this time, having lost the election from Faridabad. With the 28 Tulugu Desam members wearing yellow clothes, Swami Indervesh will, obviously, not be missed.

Opposition members had a strength of 162 in the dissolved House. There were, besides, 18 independents. In the new House, Opposition members and Independents will together number only 106.

The Opposition parties have shrunk also in number. The Rashtriya Sanjay Manch (which had three members in the dissolved House) and the Janwadi Dal (2) are now out. There is, however, one new addition--the Peasants and Workers Party of Maharashtra, with a lone member.

Of a more conspicuous change will be the composition of the Opposition.

Mr Samar Mukherjee, CPI (M) group leader, who was present in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas, will no longer be there, having lost the election from Howrah. Mr Mukherjee was perhaps not as effective a parliamentarian as some of his own party colleagues, but he always commanded respect from the Treasury branches.

Outstanding Members

Among Mr Mukherjee's colleagues in the dissolved House were some outstanding parliamentarians who, like him, have lost the elections and will not be there in the new House. Mr Somnath Chatterjee, for instance, who was in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas, making a solid contribution to the proceedings, and often, as one of the panel of Chairmen, presided ably over the proceedings; Mr Satya Sadhan Chakroborti who, though a newcomer in the dissolved House, was an aggressively effective one; and Mr Niren Ghosh, another conspicuously active member.

Besides Mr Samar Mukherjee, six other leaders of party groups in the dissolved House have also failed to get elected. Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP) is the most outstanding among them. He was in the Second, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabhas, in addition to the Seventh. A conscientious parliamentarian, a powerful speaker, and a totally sincere person, he seemed a permanent fixture on the Lok Sabha front bench.

Another is the RSP group leader, Mr Tridib Chaudhuri, who had been in the Lok Sabha continuously since 1952--something of a record. Yet another is the Forward Block group leader, Mr Chitta Basu. Mr C.T. Dhandapani, DMK group leader, has been defeated, too. So has been the experienced Mr Chandrajit Yadav (Janwadi Dal) who fought on the Janata ticket. One more who is Mr Neelahotheadasan Nadar, leader of the DSP group (before the party merged with the DMKP).

Attention-Getters

Another party leader, although not the leader of his party group in the House, who will not be there in the new Lok Sabha, is Mr Chandra Shekhar (Janata). He attended the House only during crucial debates, but he invariably made his presence felt, speaking with an indignant authority that had others sitting up and listening. Another leader of the same stature is Mr H.N. Bahuguna.

Several front benchers in the Lok Sabha who will be missing this time are the mercurial Mr Subramanian Swamy; the forceful Mr Ram Jethmalani; the brilliant and fire-spewing Mr George Fernandes; the widely-respected Mr Satish Agarwal; Mr Ravindra Varma, whose speeches were a solid contribution to whatever matter was being discussed; and Mr Karan Singh, who brought a touch of class to any discussion he participated in.

One will also miss Mrs Pramila Dandavate. She stood out among women members with her indefatigable energy, both in the Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas. One will miss Mr A.K. Roy, too. He was an outstanding unattached member and made no small contribution to the proceedings with his pithy speeches and interventions.

On the ruling party's side also, quite a few front-benchers will be missed: veterans like Y.B. Chavan, who died soon after elections were announced; Mr Brahmananda Reddy, who has been defeated in his native Andhra Pradesh; and Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, who chose not to contest this time.

They were among the regulars in the House, almost never missing a sitting, often staying right till the end of the day, and lending a certain weight to the proceedings by their mere presence.

On the Treasury benches, Indira Gandhi will be missed by all. She had been in the House continuously since 1967, except for the break during the Janata regime and seemed set for at least two more terms. In the dissolved House she was present as often as she could manage it. If she was absent, there used to be a clamour from the Opposition for her presence and she used to come virtually running.

Whatever her critics might say, she had shaped into a consummate parliamentarian.

Mr Shiv Shankar, who seemed to cast a spell on the House whenever he spoke because of the thoroughness, lucidity and logic of his presentation of even complex issues will not be in the new House either. He has been defeated by the Telugu Desam in Mrs Gandhi's former constituency, Medak. Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, who had been in the Lok Sabha right from 1957 and had distinguished himself by his exceptional sobriety, is another victim of the Telugu Desam.

The biggest change, however, is that there might well be no zero hour in the new House--at least not the uproarious kind which was an integral part of almost every sitting in the Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabha.

The reason--many young members of the Opposition who were on their feet and protesting loudly about a variety of matters on the stroke of twelve, have been defeated in the poll.

The Opposition will still have some stalwarts--like Mr Madhu Dandavate (J) and Mr Indrajit Gupta (CPI)--who can be trusted to raise major issues with vigour and authority, compelling the House's attention. Mr Biju Patnaik (J) will be a force to reckon with if he chooses to attend the House more of ten than in the past. Mr Jagjivan Ram (Cong-J) and Mr Charan Singh (DMKP) will also be there, but how effective they are and how they adjust to the totally new situation in the House remains to be seen.

Also worth watching will be whether, and to what extent, the film star members--Mr Amitabh Bachchan, Mr Sunil Dutt and Mrs Vijayanthimala Bali--overshadow the rest on the Government benches.

CSO: 4600/1270

IRAN

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON IRAQI THREATS

GF100800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Commentary entitled: "The Iraqi Regime's Threats and our Subsequent Response," by the research group of the Central News Unit]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi regime's sporadic attacks on residential areas in our country have become a regular phenomenon despite international and local condemnation. All know that the Saddam regime has shelled and bombed cities and villages and in general the civilian areas of our country since the beginning of the imposed war in order to attain some objectives. These objectives are the devastation and destruction of cities, driving the residents from those areas, increasing the influx of refugees, weakening the morale of the people and the armed forces, and finally seeking to justify its own ineptitude on the battlefield.

In an overall view, we can define the Iraqi war strategy as a strategy of aggression. It has endeavored to attain its military objectives by ruthlessly eliminating all obstacles. This has become clear to all and even countries which support Iraq admit that Iraq initiated the war.

Later the war was extended to the Persian Gulf with attacks on ships. But again they were unsuccessful. In such circumstances, there was only one path open to the Saddam regime to show that it poses a danger to the people of our country, and that is to resort to the unmanly tactics of bombing and shelling our residential areas. In this effort, the Saddam regime carried its villainy to the ultimate by showering 6- and 9-meter-long missiles on cities near the border such as Dezful and Masjed Soleyman. The people have forgotten that these armaments had incriminating markings and if they came from the Soviet Union, they could only have been sent with the consent of the Superpowers and their experts in Baghdad.

In any case, the Iraqi regime has also repeatedly used cluster bombs. Chemical weapons have been lavishly used over wide areas despite an international ban and hundreds of more crimes have been committed. However, the response of the people and the authorities of our country has been silence to date so that the people of the world may realize what kind of persons are those who rule Iraq.

The Iraqi regime has continued to bomb residential areas despite repeated reports circulated by the United Nations warning Iraq. The 10 June 1984 resolution was formulated for the parties to refrain from bombing residential areas. But the Saddam regime continued its criminal tactics because in its opinion this is the only way to display its military force in Iran by shelling cities from across the border.

All the countries which were prepared to announce at a special meeting that they acknowledge Iraq has initiated the war have refrained from taking any step toward truth and justice on the international scene. The international community has also remained silent or attempted to create peripheral problems or digressions through international organizations such as the UNCHR and the International Red Cross despite the United Nation's frequent assertions that Iraq is responsible for the bombing of our cities and villages. Major questions arise in the light of these plots and attacks--why do the countries which see the truth endeavor to maintain their reticence? Why do the international organizations visiting Iran which are aware of the reality create a hue and cry for example, on the execution of wagers of war against God and openly castigate our political setup, its leadership and even the people?

The answer is this: This antihuman oppressive force in the world is not willing to allow the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian revolution to succeed in this imposed war. They cannot tolerate Iran winning any laurels and hence all the propaganda monopolies of the world have concentrated all their efforts for the defeat of even the most minute political or propagandistic victory of our country.

Last Friday, our president, Hojjat ol-Elsam Val-Moslemin Mr Khamene'i, warned the Iraqi regime in his Friday sermon that it should refrain from attacks on our cities or it will receive a reciprocal reply. These utterances have been made on the basis of the frequent UN reports that Iraq is responsible for bombing our cities. But the radios and the news agencies of the imperialist monopolies speak of Iran's "threats" against Iraq! Is it not clear to them after so many UN reports what the difference is between accusations and fact?

Of course they know right from the beginning what atrocities have been perpetrated by Saddam, but they dare not speak a word in favor of Iran and the Islamic revolution of Iran.

If the ruling regime of Iraq continues to commit its crimes and if we are forced to resort to tit-for-tat against our better inner inclinations, then this will give them the opportunity to sympathize with Iraq and rally world opinion. But these efforts will not succeed and one day the war will show its final face because in Iran the people and leadership have no differences. The leadership's decisions are the decisions of the people and the wishes of the people are the wishes of the leadership.

IRAN

QASEMLU EVALUATES KURDISH RESISTANCE, OTHER RELATED MATTERS

PM121135 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Feb 85 p 4

[Jeane Gueyras report: "Mr Qasemlu Deplores Foreign Governments' Indifference"]

[Text] What is the position in the "forgotten war" which has been going on between Iran's Kurdish Autonomist guerrillas and the Tehran government's forces for almost 6 years? Last October Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i said that the Kurdish uprising had been "crushed." Since that announcement, however, Iranian newspapers have regularly reported violent clashes in the region, and Mr Muhammad (Reyshari), Tehran's new head of intelligence services, admitted in mid-January that the "counterrevolution in Kordestan" had not disarmed.

On a brief visit to Paris, Mr Abdol Rahman Qasemlu, secretary general of the Kordestan Democratic Party [KDP], which is the main party fighting the central government, admitted that his peshmergas experienced a "difficult year" in 1984 following three major offensives launched by Tehran's army. But, he added, "We withstood and our forces are intact." He said, however, that the area of "liberated zones" controlled by the peshmergas in Kordestan was considerably reduced. In this connection he revealed that Tehran succeeded in setting up more than 2,000 military posts in Kordestan and around 20 garrisons in the region's main cities.

However, Mr Qasemlu denied reports that the peshmergas have abandoned their military bases in Iranian Kordestan to take refuge in Iraqi Kordestan. Nonetheless, he admitted that his forces are using a no-man's land 15 km deep on the Iraqi side of the border, which has not been controlled by Baghdad's army since 1975. "In this sector," he said, "we have our hospital, our training camps, our administrative services, and our politburo. But I can assure you that all our peshmergas--their number varies between 10,000 and 12,000--and the 35,000 or so members of our party are in Iranian Kordestan."

Mr Qasemlu also admitted that, faced with the constant reinforcement of government forces in Kordestan, the KDP has been forced to abandon its tactics of "head-on warfare" and is now merely waging a guerrilla struggle against the Iranian Army. "In this sphere," he said, "we are the strongest because we have the population's full support, whereas the government forces and,

consequently, we think that the military situation is better for us than it was 1 year ago."

The KDP has certainly benefited from the Iran-Iraq war, which is immobilizing a substantial part of Tehran's forces. Mr Qasemlu readily admits this, stating that his party has excellent relations with Baghdad, "because we have a common enemy and the same objective: to overthrow Tehran's Islamic regime."

Is Iraq giving military and financial help to the Kurdish rebels? Mr Qasemlu said immediately that the peshmergas do not need arms, that they have more than enough, but that, on the other hand, they lack munitions, which "we buy from abroad" and which "the Iraqis allow to pass through their territory." As for political relations with Baghdad, they do not seem to present any particular problem. Mr Qasemlu even acted as intermediary in an attempt to settle the conflict between the Iraqi regime and its own Kurdish insurgents, in other words, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Mr Jalal Talabani, who "admits like us, that the Khomeyni regime is more dangerous to the Kurds than the Baghdad regime."

"As regards the financing of our struggle," he added, "we are encountering more problems. From the political and military viewpoints our situation is good, but from the economic and social viewpoint we are in a bad position. We are being subjected to a harsh blockade by the Iranian Government, which is even preventing the arrival of medicines. Kurdistan's population, which is helping us, has been impoverished by 6 years of war and can no longer help us as it did at first. International financial aid would therefore be welcome. But, unfortunately, we have noticed that our fate does not interest foreign governments, the very governments which have no hesitation in helping other guerrilla movements throughout the world. However, this has positive aspects, because we will keep our independence, which is very important to us."

Clashes With Komala

Mr Qasemlu stated that the Kurds are the only people in Iran who are waging an armed struggle against the Tehran regime. However, he added that the KDP is not the only combatant force in Kurdistan and that the Komala [Marxist-Leninist organization] guerrillas are at its side. But, he continued with a hint of regret, "our relations are unfortunately relations of conflict." Since November 1984 there have been many armed clashes in Kurdistan between the KDP peshmergas and those of Komala. These clashes have been followed by massacres on both sides, which have killed around 50 people in the two camps in 3 months.

Mr Qasemlu said, on the other hand, that his party's relations with the Mojahedin-e Khalq, who came to Kurdistan to flee the repression, do not present any problems. "The mojahedin, who are our allies in the National Resistance Council," he stressed, "are in a small minority in Kurdistan, where they do not constitute a major force. They carry out their military training in our regions, and their limited number does not enable them to carry out major military operations without the protection of our peshmergas."

However, the Kurdish leader hinted that there are political disagreements within the National Resistance Council between the KDP and the Mojahedin. MOJAHED, the latter's daily, criticized the KDP last August for agreeing to open dialogue with the Tehran government. "According to the Mojahedin," Mr Qasemlu said, "we must never negotiate with the Islamic regime. We, for our party, think that you should never be so categorical in politics. Negotiation is sometimes necessary and is a form of struggle." In this connection Mr Qasemlu revealed that last July a KDP Politburo delegation met with high-ranking representatives of the Tehran regime with a view to exploring the possibility of a peaceful solution to the conflict. "We first put forward our preconditions and demanded that the negotiations be public and be held in Kordestan, not in Tehran, as they wanted," he explained, adding that, in the final analysis, these preliminary talks were not successful.

[Gueyras] Were the mojahedin right then?

[Qasemlu] "No, I do not think so. There is a problem which they refuse to understand. If the Khomeyni regime said to the Kurdish population 'We want to negotiate with the KDP' and we rejected the regime's offer, we would be the losers. We therefore did not turn down dialogue, while realizing that it was futile, and we did this with the aim of condemning the regime's maneuvers and showing the population that Tehran is not prepared to grant us autonomy."

CSO: 4619/30

IRAN

COUNTRY'S EXPORT TRENDS DURING MAR-SEP 84 ANALYZED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 16 Dec 84 o 12

[Text] In the name of the Almighty

During the period 23 September-22 October 1984, about 22,239 tons of goods at a value of 2,899 million rials were exported, which shows an increase of 73.6 percent in weight and 41.6 percent in value over a comparable period last year (13,404 tons at a value of 2,047 million rials).

The increase in the export of fresh and dried dates, gums and resins, different kinds of hides, wool and hair, and artificial fiber textiles has had a decisive effect on the increase in the value of exports during the September-October period.

In the first 7 months of the current year [21 March-22 October 1984], a total of 130,337 tons of goods at a value of 17,644 million rials were exported, which, compared to the exports of the first 7 months of the previous year (104,825 tons at a value of 13,291 million rials), indicates an increase of 24.2 percent in weight and 31.7 percent in value.

In the goods categories, these goods are divided into several kinds, which include:

1. Agricultural goods
2. Minerals and construction materials
3. Woolens, hand woven carpets and handicrafts
4. Industrial goods
5. Other goods

In this manner, in the first 7 months of the current year, 43,685 tons of agricultural goods at a value of 9,318 million rials were exported, which, compared to a similar period last year (33,109

tons at a value of 7,463 million rials), increased by 32 percent in weight and 25 percent in value.

The increase in the export of agricultural goods in the course of the above-mentioned period creates much hope for the people. It is hoped that this upward trend in the export of agricultural goods will continue and with the efforts to solve the problems of the villages and beloved villagers, Iranian agriculture will achieve the necessary self-sufficiency and even be able to export the surplus, which will be possible through correct policies as well as understanding the rural problems. (We will speak more on this issue.)

The export of minerals and construction materials in the first 7 months of the current year was 74,504 tons at a value of 2,466 million rials, which, compared to a similar period last year (62,209 tons at a value of 826 million rials), shows an increase of 20 percent in weight and 199 percent in value.

The export of woolens, hand woven carpets and handicrafts increased from 866 tons at a value of 2,596 million rials in the first 7 months of last year to 1,315 tons at a value of 4,162 million rials, which shows an increase of 52 percent and 16 percent in terms of weight and value respectively. Despite the increase in the export of woolens and hand woven carpets in the first 7 months of the current year compared to a similar period last year, the danger still remains of a decrease in Iranian carpet exports. It is the responsibility of the authorities to save this important industry from stagnation through correct policies, because along with oil, which makes up the major part of our exports, up to a few years ago, carpets were called the second Iranian export good. But unfortunately, in the past few years, the carpet weaving industry has declined. Considering the slogan of neither East nor West but Islamic Republic and the efforts of the people and the authorities to achieve self-sufficiency and be freed of reliance on a single product, this stagnation cannot be recommended. The officials must, through encouraging the carpet weavers, punishment of smugglers, and international publicity, activate the carpet industry in a way that once again this item can be a major export item for us.

The export of industrial goods in the first 7 months of this year were 2,078 tons at a value of 679 million rials, which, compared to a similar period last year (613 tons at a value of 701 million rials), despite the 239 percent increase in weight and 3 percent in value, has decreased 3 percent in value [as published]. The export of other goods was 2,454 tons at a value of 179 million rials in the first 7 months of the current year.

The export of goods from other customs in the first 7 months of the current year (other than customs subject to calculation) were 6,202 tons at a value of 840 million rials.

In terms of the share of each of these goods in the total exports (except for exports which have not been included from other customs, which are in the preliminary export and import statistical charts), they can be categorized as follows: The share of industrial goods in total exports in terms of weight and value in the first 7 months of this year reached 1.675 and 4 percent respectively. In a similar period last year, the share of industrial goods in the total exports in terms of weight and value were 0.614 and 5.49 percent respectively.

The share of agricultural goods in the total exports in terms of weight and value in the first 7 months of this year reached 35 and 55 percent respectively. In a similar period last year, the share of the agricultural goods in the total exports in terms of weight and value were 33 and 59 percent respectively.

Also, the share of the total exports of mineral goods and construction materials in terms of weight and value in the course of the first 7 months of this year reached 60 and 15 percent respectively. In a similar period last year, the share of the total exports of mineral goods and construction materials were 62.5 and 6.5 percent in terms of weight and value respectively. The share of carpets and other goods in the total exports were 3 and 26 percent in terms of weight and value respectively. In a similar period last year, the share of carpets and other goods in the total exports were 4 and 30 percent in terms of weight and value respectively.

Now, with these details, let us take a cursory glance at the nature of exported goods and briefly examine the level of their general and particular changes.

A. In the first 7 months of the current year, a total of 43,685 tons of agricultural goods at a value of 9,318 million rials were exported through the customs, which, compared to the export of these products in a similar period last year (33,109 tons at a value of 7,463 million rials), increased by 32 percent in weight and 25 percent in value. Agricultural goods studied include various products which have been categorized. For instance, agricultural goods include such items as animal husbandry products, sea products, selected agricultural goods, cotton, and linter.

1. Among the agricultural goods, the export of animal husbandry products (wool, hides, and intestines) reached from 6,303 tons at a value of 2,436 million rials in the first 7 months of last year to 10,031 tons at a value of 3,164 million rials in a similar

period this year, which indicates an increase of 59 percent in weight and a 29 percent in value. Of the goods in this line of exports, hides were the most important item.

2. The export of sea products (caviar; fresh, frozen and smoked fish; and fresh shrimp) in the first 7 months of this year amounted to 965 tons at a value of 1,635 million rials, whereas in a similar period last year, only 559 tons at a value of 1,044 million rials were exported. The export of these products during the period under study compared to a similar period last year increased in terms of weight and value 72 and 56 percent respectively. The major value among the sea products went to caviar, which, compared to a similar period last year, increased by 48 percent in weight and 57 percent in value. Considering the increasing world demand for this item, raising sturgeon to obtain caviar for export in the future years can be one of the major concerns involving exports from the country.

3. The export of various selected agricultural goods in the 7 months of this year amounted to 1,813 tons at a value of 568 million rials.

The export of these goods, which include the roots and essence of licorice, various kinds of gum tragacanth, various kinds of caraway seeds, gum substances and resins, and pharmaceutical and industrial plants, in the first 7 months of last year reached 2,683 tons at a value of 708 million rials, which represents a decrease in terms of weight and value--32 percent in weight and 19 percent in value.

Meanwhile, the export of various kinds of caraway seeds has severely decreased. Licorice roots have also decreased, but not as much as licorice roots [as published]. Licorice essence, gum substances and resins have also decreased, but, as before, the export of pharmaceutical and industrial plants has increased.

4. We see that the export of cotton, linter, scraps and old cotton, which in the course of the first 7 months of last year was nearly nothing, has increased and in a similar period this year, reaching 3,510 tons at a value of 87 million rials.

5. Exports of fresh and dried fruits in the period under study amounted to 27,064 tons at a value of 3,650 million rials, which, compared to a similar period last year (23,010 tons at a value of 3,218 million rials), shows an increase of 17 percent in weight and 13 percent in value. This increase is due to the increase in the export of fresh and dried fruits, pistachio nuts, shelled pistachio nuts, almonds, shelled almonds, dried apricots, and fresh vegetables. Meanwhile, fresh and dried dates were the major item in this line of export and almonds, despite the increase in weight, show a decrease in value.

6. Also, exports of other agricultural goods reached from 554 tons at a value of 59 million rials in the first 7 months of last year to 1,302 tons at a value of 105 million rials, which, despite a 45 percent decrease in weight, shows a 77 percent increase in value.

B. Carpets and Handicrafts

In the first 7 months of this year, about 1,315 tons of hand woven carpets at a value of 4,162 million rials were exported, whereas the export of this item in a similar period last year was 866 tons at a value of 3,596 million rials. Hence, the export of this item in the period studied increased by 51 percent in weight and 15 percent in value.

C. Minerals and Construction Materials

In the first 7 months of the present year, about 74,504 tons of minerals and construction materials at a value of 2,466 million rials were exported, which, compared to the export of these items during a similar period last year (62,209 tons at a value of 826 million rials), increased by 19 percent in weight and 198 percent in value. Of these items, the export of ferrous oxide, 250 tons; zinc ore, 10,518 tons; lead ore, 7,839 tons; stones and construction materials, 5,371 tons; and minerals and sea salt, 564 tons, have increased, whereas exports decreased for other metals and minerals, 6,356 tons; mosaic and mosaic pieces, 5,866 tons; and tiles, ceramics and china, 25 tons. It should be mentioned that the export of ferrous oxide has begun again this year. In the first 3 months of this year, 200 tons of ferrous oxide at a value of 6 million rials were exported. Then, in the second quarter, another 150 tons, and during the September-October period, the export of this item was zero. Hence, the level of export of ferrous oxide in the first 6 months of this year is the same as that of the first 7 months of this year. But in any case, in terms of value in the first 7 months of this year, the export of this product was 19 million rials, which shows an increase of 1,152 percent compared to a similar period last year.

D. Industrial Goods

In the first 7 months of this year, about 2,078 tons of industrial goods at a value of 679 million rials were exported, which, compared to a similar period last year (613 tons at a value of 701 million rials), despite a 238 percent increase in weight, shows a 3 percent decrease in value. Industrial goods exported in the first 7 months of this year include 269 million rials of tricot and stretch fabrics, 46 million rials of ready-made clothing, 151 million rials of artificial fiber textiles, 123 million rials of leather and rubber shoes, 10 million rials

of cookies and candies, 1 million rials of prepared medicine, 3 million rials of other chemicals, 71 million rials of powdered detergent and soap, 4 million rials of aluminum and copper containers, and 1 million rials of motor vehicles and parts. In terms of export value, in the course of the above-mentioned period, ready-made clothing, artificial fiber textiles, leather and rubber shoes, other chemicals, powdered detergent and soap have increased. Of the total statistics of the industrial goods group, it can be concluded that the major figure of these industrial exports, other than powdered detergent and soap, only includes tricot and stretch fabrics, artificial fiber textiles, and leather and rubber shoes. As was mentioned earlier, this shows that other export resources of other industries have not been utilized properly and it is necessary to devise support policies for these industries. Also, those industries whose exports were relatively good must be encouraged.

In the first 7 months of this year, 994,337 tons of goods have been imported through the major customs of the country, which, compared to a similar period last year (14,144,758 tons), shows a decrease of 29 percent. During this period, the number of incoming trucks carrying imported goods to the customs of the country were 196,380 with 31,258,020 tons of cargo and the number of incoming trucks carrying foreign transit cargo into the customs of the country were 88 with 1,035 tons of cargo, which, together, were 196,468 trucks with 3,126,837 tons of cargo [as published].

In the first 7 months of this year, a total of 10,428 tons of goods at a value of 827,429 million rials have entered the country, which, compared to a similar period last year (11,933 tons at a value of 883,688 million rials), decreased by 12 percent in weight and 6 percent in value.

Comparative Balance of Foreign Trade of the Country in the First 7 Months [Mar-Seol] of the Years 1977 Through 1984

IMPORTS					Variable Percentage Compared to Previous Year	
Year	Weight in 1000 Tons	Value in Million Rials	Index		Weight	Value
			Weight	Value		
1977	9,450	559,460	100	100	0	0
1978	9,256	580,276	97	103	-2	3
1979	6,826	366,986	72	65	-26	-36
1980	7,497	563,066	79	100	9	53
1981	9,141	761,741	96	136	21	35
1982	10,000	875,426	105	156	9	14
1983	11,933	883,688	126	157	19	0

1984	10,428	827,329	110	147	-12	-6
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EXPORTS

1977	548	21,606	100	100	0	0
1978	507	24,030	92	111	-7	11
1979	405	29,176	73	135	-20	21
1980	265	26,586	48	169	-34	25
1981	133	18,933	24	87	-49	-48
1982	134	14,405	24	66	0	-23
1983	105	12,391	19	61	-21	-7
1984	130	17,644	23	81	24	31

COMPARISON

Year	Percentage of Share of Weight	Percentage of Share of Value	Value Dif- ference of Imports and Exports
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	Imports	Exports	Total	Imports	Exports	Total	
1977	94	6	100	96	4	100	537,855
1978	94	6	100	96	4	100	556,246
1979	94	6	100	92	8	100	337,810
1980	96	4	100	93	7	100	526,480
1981	98	2	100	97	3	100	742,798
1982	98	2	100	98	2	100	861,021
1983	99	1	100	98	2	100	870,297
1984	98	2	100	97	3	100	809,685

10,000

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IRAN

REGIME SAID TO BE IN QUEST OF ENDING POLITICAL ISOLATION

London KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 10

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] From Ankara to Havana, from the capital of a U.S. ally neighboring the Soviet Union to the capital of a Soviet ally neighboring the United States, a wandering spirit between the continents.

The most recent test of fortune by Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, the Islamic prime minister, in the area of foreign policy, which has even taken him to Managua, is an indication of the deadlock facing the Khomeyni regime.

The Islamic Republic has been unable yet to gain a definite place on the international scene, and as a result, it has become a marginal figure, if not a pariah. The efforts of the ayatollahs to create a new "abstention front" drew their newest failure this week. Algeria, South Yemen and, of course, the PLO did not agree to participate in this proposed front. Consequently, there remained the ayatollahs, Syria and Libya.

The foreign policy of every country, if we set aside the details and surfaces, is essentially a reflection and extension of its domestic policies. Inside Iran, the government of the ayatollahs, which is moving towards isolation, cannot expect to meet a better fate on the international scene. Now, for more than two years the regime of Ayatollah Khomeyni has presented to the Iranian people nothing but threats, bluffs, fabricating scenes and putting off the affairs of today until tomorrow. Obviously, such a regime has nothing to offer on the global scene either.

Taking a few pictures with Turgut Ozal, Fidel Castro, and Daniel Ortega may be an interesting show, but under the present conditions in Iran, the issue is the content of foreign policy, not its form.

Musavi-Khamene'i is part of the group prescribing a radical policy both domestically and abroad. In the opinion of this group, the Islamic Republic must sever the last relations of Iranian society with the "capitalist society" and the "capitalist world" and rapidly follow the path of "equity" or "Islamic socialism." Internally, this group wants to nationalize trade, distribute the land, control the production units, and line up the people to construct the ideal Islamic society. Obviously, following such a policy inside the country will eventually require close ties with the Soviet Union and its allies. Of course, since the Islamic Republic is very fond of the "neither East nor West" slogan, Musavi-Khamene'i and his fellow group members, including Mir 'Ali Musavi-Khamene'i, the president, prefer close ties to the Soviet Union to take place indirectly through Cuba and Syria.

In his indirect message to the Soviet Union, Musavi-Khamene'i said: "The Islamic Revolution is your potential ally. Help us to push aside the group with imperialist tendencies."

The renewal of negotiations between Tehran and Moscow in economic areas must be examined in the light of this message. Musavi's trips to Havana and Managua cannot be considered anything less than signs of a more general effort to gain the support of Moscow.

Opposite to the Musavi-Khamene'i group, another group is also active in the country, led by its distinguished members, Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, and Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani. This group considers the Soviet Union the long-term enemy and the United States the short-term enemy. The radicalism of this group in regards to foreign policy is directed essentially towards the war against Iraq, which they feel must be defeated at any price.

In recent months, along with the expansion of the political crisis inside the Republic, the official and unofficial representatives of this group set out to send their messages both to Iranians residing abroad and to the Western powers and important non-aligned countries.

This is the message:

"Do not impose pressure. If our regime is placed in a worse position, we have no other way but to fall into the arms of Moscow!"

Musavi-Khamene'i tells Moscow: "Help us so that we will not be forced to take refuge to Washington."

Rafsanjani's group tells Washington: "Help us so that we will not be forced to take refuge to Moscow."

This kind of threat has been used by the "Third World" countries since nearly 40 years ago, simultaneous with the formation of the two global blocs. Even the late shah took advantage of this weapon occasionally and in order to silence his opponents in Washington, he would say: "Do not make me look for other friends."

This threat or tactic may be effective under normal conditions, but none of the power groups in the Islamic Republic are in a position to be able to benefit from it. They have nothing at their disposal to deliver to anyone and can only make a deal on the deer in the desert which has not been captured.

Despite the opportunism of its leaders, the Soviet Union is not that much of a cynic to take the Musavi-Khamene'i group under its wings. And the United States, in spite of the shortsightedness of its leaders, is not fool enough to imagine that the Rafsanjani group is able to even protect itself, let alone take over Iran.

The power groups within the framework of the Islamic regime are like poker players who have bluffed with empty hands and imagine that no one is aware of their actual situation.

Today, the Islamic regime is not in a position to think about anything but trying to protect itself. The policies of this regime in all areas are reactionary; one can take the initiative only when a true social base exists. It is not necessary to study Iranian society under a magnifying glass in order to realize that Ayatollah Khomeyni and his supporting groups no longer represent any of the great social forces. The farmers, the workers, and the middle class have all separated from this regime and the increasingly violent policies of the regime support this fact. The Islamic regime essentially relies on the lumpen strata on the one hand and the plunderers on the other and is ultimately a slave to reactionism.

This regime is unable to give land to the Iranian farmer.

This regime is unable to give the Iranian worker gainful employment and social security.

This regime is unable to provide the resources for the growth of the intellectuals in Iran.

This regime is unable to accept the equality of men and women.

This regime is unable to achieve a just peace.

And perhaps most importantly, it is impossible for this regime to want or to be able to allow the nation to enjoy the most important of gifts, that is freedom.

Iranian society has reached a purgatorial state. The previous regime has crumbled and the present regime is unable to go beyond an incomplete construction. The great forces of the Iranian society have not yet formed their own particular organization and leadership, and for this reason, at the present time, they only have a preventive effect on events. But the velocity of political change in Iran is such that the needed organization and leadership will inevitably be formed.

Under such circumstances, neither the Soviet Union nor the United States would be so ignorant as to make a deal with a regime which is one of the losers of history, while those to come in history are being formed from within the Iranian society.

If the Islamic regime falls into the arms of Moscow, it will be at most a more colorful copy of the Babrak Karmal regime, in other words, unpopular, isolated, condemned to destruction, and a new nuisance for the Soviet Union. We might say: But Iran has oil! Of course. But this oil must be sold to the West and Japan in order to be able to preserve the status quo by continuing to increase imports. The Soviet Union has nothing to export to Iran, except for weapons, while Iran at the present time needs everything, from wheat to aspirins.

On the other hand, if the Islamic regime falls into the arms of Washington, it will be nothing but a fainter copy of the "Islamic" regimes of Zia ul-Haq or Gaafar Nimeiri, and, in any case, it will not be considered anything but a historical parenthesis. If the United States supports the decadent regime of the Ayatollah, it will lose its chance to establish friendly relations on the basis of equal rights with the next regime of Iran.

It is in the interests of the Soviet Union and the United States not to try, by supporting one or another power group, to continue to help the dangerous present situation in Iran. The superpowers can only have a positive role by not interfering in the internal affairs of Iran. Of course, playing with Musavi-Khamene'i, Rafsanjani or the other ayatollahs may not be harmful and might even be somewhat amusing. But the lines between play and reality must always be distinguished.

None of the rival groups in the regime of the ayatollahs can either win in free elections or bring the masses of the people to the streets. None of these groups has or can have a clear picture of the future of Iran or a definite policy concerning the country's problems today or in the future. The regime is not unlike the proverbial "loud but hollow drum," and today it is an object of history, not its shaper or changer.

IRAN

IRAN PRESENTED AS 'BIGGEST BUYER OF JUNK IN WORLD'

London KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jan 85 pp 6, 14

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh; article by Mohammad Reza Torabi: "Examining 'Monotheistic Economy' in Practice," Tehran]

[Text] The trade relations and the situation of the foreign trade clearly indicate the health or sickness of the economy of every country. It is also considered a logical touchstone for understanding the programs which are pivotal to the economic policies of every country and the trends of the decisions and the results of its operations.

With the knowledge and information resulting from the decisions made in the area of foreign trade and within the framework of the above definitions, since last year, the Islamic Republic has noticeably increased the rate of plundering of the national wealth in order to procure imports.

During the period 21 March 1978-20 March 1979, due to the revolutionary conditions, Iran's economic potential was left behind. During the period 21 March 1979-20 March 1981, important steps were taken toward the destruction of and reduction in the value of the national economy. For example, due to the uncontrolled growth in inflation, the stagnation of the national economy, and the stagnation in production, the Iranian rial, which had been considered one of the 15 stable, powerful currencies of the world, exchangeable with other currencies throughout the world, was dismissed from the group of stable currencies, was forced to accept the superiority of and imposition of pressure from worthless local currencies and those of neighboring non-petroleum and petroleum countries, and came down from its lofty heights next to the dollar, mark and pound to the ground of misery.

The decrease in the volume and value of national production, the decline in the standard of living and the reduction of the average per capita national income in the course of the years following the Islamic revolution joined hands with excuses, such as the imposed war, the economic embargo, the war against the Great Satan, fighting global oppression and the provocations of domestic counterrevolutionaries, according to the Islamic government, and, on the other side, the bad policies, incompetence, ignorance and treason of the government servants. If they admit their guilt, these factors may be a means for acquittal, blind propaganda and self-deception of the government, unless the deceived and Islamic revolution-struck nation of Iran once again tolerates the black report card of the ruling government and sits waiting for a miracle as before.

Decline of the Rial

Since 1981, when the budget relied on the oil revenues more than ever before and the debts in rials and the pledges of the government, despite the rise in the volume of money in circulation five-fold compared to 1978, "according to the statistics of the Islamic Central Bank," going beyond its capacity and tolerance, the government resorted to tricks, such as a lottery on the sale of domestically assembled cars and motorcycles, a lottery for off-season hajj pilgrimages, the pre-sale of regulated pilgrimages to holy places in Iraq, the sale of gold coins to employees and free volunteers, the private offering of smuggled currency through the trusted elements in the banking system and revolutionary institutions, raising the rate of all government services several-fold, and collecting large bank notes in order to slow down the rate of money in circulation and prevent the escape of money from the Islamic banking system, so that it might unburden its shoulders of the problems which have arisen, which would prevent the government from meeting its obligations and rial payments and place them on the shoulders of the people--"the concept of the people's participation on the scene." Meanwhile, the growth of economic poverty and the decline in the purchasing power of the people gradually eliminated the attractiveness of the Iranian market for the foreign exporters and controllers of international trade--"inflation in crisis conditions." The crippled belief of revolution-struck Iran continued and added to the despair of the masters of international trade when the Islamic regime made new decisions to form an economic miracle with the aim of satisfying the foreign exporters and deceiving the Iranian people, in other words, slow, unofficial and constant opening of the gates to foreign consumer goods and flooding the hungry Iranian market with non-investment goods of low quality in large volume.

Sale of Assorted Merchandise

This decision was apparently aimed at satisfying the controllers of international trade, because the government of the Islamic Republic was afraid that the dissatisfaction of the large partners may bring about unanticipated obstacles in terms of the strategic needs of the regime, especially weapons for the army and equipment for the Revolution Guards.

Apparently, foreigners sell their goods together and the Iranian market has been opened not only to the parts of Phantom airplanes, Chieftan tanks, military relay radios, electronic parts for aviation navigation, anti-aircraft cannons and small and large air-to-air missiles, but also for (grundik) television sets; Soni videos; one, two and three sound system machines; Adidas shoes; (izi) pants; Nina Ricci perfume; Korean radios; Taiwan bicycles; Singapore pineapples and mushrooms, and so on, which, at the price of plundering the national wealth, imposing poverty and economic bankruptcy placed on the shoulders of the poorest consumer groups would satisfy the great friends. Apparently, these measures are the essential steps of the revolutionary government to sever dependency, achieve self-sufficiency and attain industrial independence.

"The announced responsibilities of the committed government of the Islamic regime."

Methods of Plunder

In this stage, the aim of the regime in freeing the official imports at the daily rate is clear and, naturally, to attain this aim, it found appropriate ways--"appropriate to the content and the container!"

The methods devised by the Islamic government of Iran for the flood-like entry of foreign consumer goods which "often lack the desirable quality" are:

- A. Passenger imports of goods that every passenger may bring along when arriving at the land, air and sea borders of Iran, either being exempted from or having to pay customs fees.
- B. Imports by government representatives or employees, students and Iranians residing abroad who bring thousands of cars and luxury items annually under this pretext, and often by the favorite persons of the regime and the government puppets. At the present, passports with import permits are sold for 3,000,000 rials in cash. The Islamic government, realizing the importance of agreeing to this demand and fearing the lack of support by powerful friends, in addition to purchasing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Japanese and German cars for the Guards Corps

and government members with new pockets to fill, provides for their other needs as their "rights."

For this purpose, imported goods are imported directly from the powerful countries or from their smaller partner countries, of course with their support and in their investment interest and in the implementation of the laws for exporting capital--"countries such as Turkey, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Indonesia."

Hence, the Islamic government, which in name and according to its Constitution considers itself committed to government trade, spends the crude oil revenues on purchasing arms and foodstuff and providing for the needs of the Guards Corps and institutions of the regime's functionaries and leaves the responsibility for the procurement of the goods needed by the rest of the people on the shoulders of the people--"transferring the affairs of the people to the people, a rare democratic concept!"

Small Merchants

The government of the Islamic Republic knows well that if foreign trade is free, it is obliged to provide the currency needed by the merchants and put it at their disposal at the official rate. Since it does not want and is unable to provide the needed currency for free imports, it has deprived the official professional merchants of their right and has replaced them with thousands of foreign passengers as small merchants.

For instance, the difference in the profit of employees' cars is 4 million rials.

C. Imports known as being "without transfer of currency." In this way, the national wealth is practically put to auction in foreign markets under the pretext of exports and instead of returning the export currency, they are changed into junk consumer goods.

The mediums for the execution of these transactions are often the direct agents of the government, such as the owners of Rafsanjan pistachio nut company, which holds a monopoly on the export of four-fifths of the Iranian pistachio nuts annually.

D. Imports by Iranian workers residing in the Persian sheikdoms or the Iranian refugees. Imports of thousands of used Japanese pickup trucks, American road building machines and deluxe items are the result of the activities of this group of new, temporary merchants.

Smuggling across land and sea borders, the entry of valuable stones, deluxe items, alcoholic beverages, gambling equipment,

cosmetics, clothing, medicine, conserves, bananas and especially narcotics are considered the result of the efforts of these unlicensed merchants. The volume of the transactions, exports and imports of this latter group can be compared to the total operation of the groups mentioned above.

Foreign Beverages

Iraq the Importer, Iran the Great Consumer

This group of unlicensed merchants is responsible for the exit of an important part of the wealth of the nation in the form of carpets, foodstuff, antiques, and so on, and seriously makes an effort under the auspices of the conditions provided by the committed Islamic government to achieve the goal of plundering the wealth of this country.

The products imported by these merchants enjoy extraordinary additional prices. The difference in such cases is 10-50 times the original price of the goods in question. A bottle of whiskey is bought and sold in Tehran for 20,000 rials; a set of (mark kam) playing cards, 30,000 rials; blue jeans, 20,000 rials; shaving cream, 1,500 rials; and double-edged razor blades, 1,200 rials.

In the Tehran Friday prayer, it was announced that Iraq is the largest importer of alcoholic beverages, and of course most of the whiskey used in Tehran has an Iraqi seal!

The cost of all of these imports and the necessary currency for their purchase is provided and paid for by the direct and indirect exchange of the wealth of the nation through apparently illegal and secret channels.

The consumer market for the exchanged goods is those whose wealth was previously plundered to provide currency. In this way, as a result of the closed circle of trade, the possessions of the people continue toward total destruction of the economic existence of Iran in support and under the guidance of the Islamic government.

Diagram of the Depth of the Tragedy

An examination of a part of the official statistics of the Islamic regime in this area shows the depth of the tragedy. For example, in the course of the first 4 months of this year, 183,302 Iranian passengers have entered the country across legal borders--"equal to the number of foreigners who have entered the country in the second four months of the year increased due to the return of the Iranian hajj pilgrims." In this manner, it is

anticipated that in the course of this year, about 700,000 Iranians will enter the country across legal borders.

Now, if at least 2 out of 3 pilgrims purchase souvenirs and import about \$1,500 worth of foreign goods, the rial value of the import of junk consumer goods by the pilgrims will be about 100 billion rials. On this basis, the rial value of the import of consumer goods by Iranian passengers amounts to 500-700 billion rials annually, in other words, a 12-figure number.

A comparison of the above figures to the industrial, sports, and developmental funds in this year's budget, which was sent on Tuesday, 27 November, by the Islamic government to the Majlis of the regime, reveals the ridiculousness of the government programs and its anti-national and anti-people aims.

Government Documentations

It is worth mentioning that in inspecting the luggage of Iranian passengers coming through Mehrabad customs in the flight of a 747 airplane of Iran from Germany at 2200 hours on Wednesday, 26 November, the following items were observed: 40 color television sets, 31 vacuum cleaners, 27 machine sets known as 1-2-3, and 1 video player. In these statistical observations, the control of the number of sound and other equipment, which was not immediately released, and clothing not covered inside the luggage of the passengers was not possible, but there were passengers who had more than 7 suitcases whereas the Ministry of Commerce has explicitly announced in Letter No 217057, dated 24 September 1984, and in explanatory Article 19 of the general regulations on imports and exports for this year by actual persons, that the value of goods carried by passengers must not exceed 100,000 rials. The price of a color television set in Iran is between 250,000-700,000 rials.

Of course, the conscious lack of control and negligence as well as the issuance of oral instructions for passengers easily importing goods has been such that passengers even engaged in bringing in industrial machinery, until the customs of the Islamic government apparently began to complain and has asked for instructions from the Ministry of Industries. The Ministry of Industries announced in letter No 348746, dated 29 August 1984, that the entry of industrial machinery is only permitted for units with permits and by previous permission and that passengers do not have such a right.

It should not be unsaid that this decision was not made out of absolute compassion and a sense of duty but perhaps because of the group of the officials being deprived of receiving commissions on foreign purchases.

The government has also always had an open hand in this area by issuing oral instructions and notification of written ratifications so that the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic in a session on 12 September 1984 has provided such privileges for the entry of goods through the Iranian borders on the proposal of the Foreign Ministry, which has granted permission to bring any sort of goods in the name of Iranians residing abroad and passengers.

This responsible method of the officials of the Islamic regime governing Iran in devising policies for foreign trade and new import regulations has guaranteed them certain miracles which in order to understand the importance of the goals, we recount some of them.

1. Because they are spread out, the passenger imports prevent the concentration and accumulation of goods in the ruined or closed down ports of Iran.
2. The need for a centralized transportation system and storage and an organization for the transport of such merchandise will not be felt.
3. With the expansion of the number of new small merchants, "the passengers," new jobs will be created.
4. The shortage of consumer goods and common needs of the market will be eliminated.
5. The currency revenues of the government from the sale of crude oil will be allotted to the uses intended by the government.
6. The stagnation of the domestic production and industrial destruction of Iran will remain hidden by the increase in the supply of goods in the market.
7. The crisis resulting from the shortage of goods on the market is ameliorated by creating a false thriving and warm transactions, and new jobs on the level of middleman and retail salesman will begin--"black market services in the consumer market."
8. The rial revenues of the government increase through the collection of customs expenses of releasing passenger goods.
9. This large volume of non-investment imported goods is omitted from the official statistics of annual imports and when the negative trade balance is offered, those figures are not calculated.

In this manner, at the price of plundering the property of the people and flooding the market with massive amounts of consumer junk, the big friends are satisfied and the Islamic Republic will be soared their political propaganda blade. Obviously, the arms and non-arms tools needed for the imposition of rule over the nation is at its disposal.

It obviously goes without saying that the symptoms of the imposition of this evil will be for years the legacy of the black period of Islamic government. And today there is no way out except for carefully observing this situation and exposing the depth of the anti-national conspiracies with the hope of opening new windows in the people's minds.

10,000

CSO: 4640/325

IRAN

IRANIAN DELEGATION IN AAPSO CONFERENCE CRITICIZES REGIME

TA072049 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Regime's Crimes Are Disclosed Before World Public Opinion"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: As you are aware, an Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity organization conference on a new international information order was held on 19 November in Kabul, the capital of democratic Afghanistan. Sixty delegations of governments, progressive organizations, and international assemblies from 41 countries around the world attended the conference. An Iranian delegation composed of Messrs Rahim Namvar, Siyavosh Kasra'i, and Reza Maqsadi took part in this conference.

During their revealing speeches, members of the Iranian delegation exposed the ruthless and anti-freedom features of the Islamic regime's leaders, and showed the ugly faces of these false claimants of the rule of God and the Koran to the conference participants. At the same time, in the course of this conference a special news conference was held with the aim of further acquainting world public opinion with the crimes of the Islamic regime and its anti-cultural and anti-human nature, as well as with the conditions of fascist repression prevailing in Iran. At this news conference, Mr Rahim Namvar analyzed Iran's political situation and the fact that the glorious 11 February Revolution is facing defeat as a result of plots by the agents of imperialism, headed by America, and the treachery of leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: The move to the right, the stabilization of the path of progress of capitalism, the suppression of democratic freedoms, anti-communism, anti-Sovietism, hostility toward the manifestations of Iranian culture, the stubborn continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and its hysterical aggravation, which so far have resulted in thousands of deaths and millions of maimed and homeless people, are some of the distinct qualities of the counterrevolutionary policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Rahim Namvar, our homeland's prominent journalist and revolutionary, then said: The goals of workers and peasants, who played an outstanding part in the victory of the 11 February 1979 revolution, are being betrayed in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have been gravely harmed by the traitors of the ruling reaction. We once more draw the attention of the world's consciences to the atrocities now being committed in our homeland, so that by reflecting the

combatant voice of the struggling people of our calamity-stricken homeland, Iran, they will assist them in this historic struggle.

Then, Mr Reza Maqsadi, referring to the fascist conditions prevailing in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran , said: From the very first months of the revolution's victory, restrictions against and confrontation with Communist and progressive forces were initiated, and with the bloody assault on progressive parties and organizations which had an outstanding role in the revolution's victory, this development peaked. Today, all revolutionaries and fighters for freedom are being subjected to the harshest police persecutions.

Following this, Iran's revolutionary poet, Siyavosh Kasra'i, raised the issue of the Iranian regime's extremely reactionary stances in the spheres of art and culture. He stressed that following extreme persecution and censorship of the press, and the collection of progressive books from bookshops as well as setting them on fire, hundreds of intellectuals and artists were thrown into prison. This great treachery against Iranian culture was coupled with a savage assault on Iranian universities. The regime's hostility toward art and culture led to the so-called cultural revolution, as a result of which hundreds of progressive and committed professors and thousands of revolutionary democratic students were expelled from the universities. After referring to the banning of all post-revolutionary progressive newspapers and publications by the Islamic regime, and the arrest of progressive revolutionary journalists who had played a great role in promoting the Iranian people's revolutionary movement, the speaker said: The heavy blow that the Islamic Republic has dealt to art and artistic creativity is probably incomparable to any era of Iran's political and social history. Artists and writers have either been imprisoned or executed, or have emigrated, or are waiting in their homes for a night raid by Ayatollah Khomeyni's forces.

This news conference once more presented to the world's people the true faces of the criminal rulers of the Islamic regime.

CSO: 4640/358

IRAN

NVOI ASSAULTS REPRESSION BY CLERICAL REGIME

TA142038 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Islamic Regime's Gift on the Eve of the Revolution's Anniversary"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The regime of Islamic terror and repression ruling in our homeland began the 7th anniversary of the Iranian people's glorious popular and anti-imperialist revolution with a series of extensive and savage assaults on the true forces of the revolution. Khomeyni in particular, in the role of Velayat-e Faqih, issued a vague and ambiguous message that left open the way to suppress forces loyal to the popular, anti-imperialist, and antidespotic revolution, and to continue a fascist-theocratic policy of terror and repression. As the Islamic regime's security organization announced: The regime's executioners, by launching an extensive attack against the Feda'iyān-e Khalq Organization Majority--the (Keshtgari) group--arrested a large number of persons and delivered them to the Islamic executioners.

In another statement, the public relations department of the Ministry of Security [title as heard] of Khomeyni's Islamic regime announced the news of the killing and arrest of 20 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Iran Organization in the provinces of Tehran, Esfahan, and Mazandaran on the eve of the 7th anniversary of the people's popular, anti-imperialist, and antidespotic revolution.

Yes, the ceremonies marking the 7th anniversary of the glorious 11 February revolution were launched with a new campaign of arrests and killings against the patriotic children of this land--great men and women who do not want to see their homeland under the domination of aliens, and who have no desire or aim other than the maintenance of true independence, freedom, and social justice in their homeland. Indications are that the Islamic regime will continue with utmost intensity its terror and repression against the free Iranian people in the 7th year of the glorious 11 February revolution.

We are aware that in order to sooth public opinion over the dreadful crimes being committed in the Islamic regime against Iran's free people, the blood-sucking Islamic rulers were finally forced to dismiss the butcher Lajvardi, and claimed that they were intent on enforcing the law in the country. However, this is no more than a maneuver because the supporters and close associates of Lajvardi are still in charge of the government--a government that cannot continue a single day of its disgraceful life without bloodshed.

Repression and terror against the true forces of the revolution and against our homeland's independence-seeking people are continuing with utmost intensity by the hellish organizations on one hand, and by the close supporters and backers of the executioner Lajvardi in the government on the other. A point that must be made in connection with this new front of repression and terror of Islamic executioners against the people and the true forces of the revolution is that the supporters of the butcher Lajvardi--in view of Khomeyni's fondness for Lajvardi, and Mr Khomeyni's family relationship, particularly that of his grandson Hoseyn, with this executioner--intend to again resort to a series of incidents and shameful crimes, such as planting bombs and sabotage in this or that institution, or to other disgraceful measures such as hijacking aircraft and so forth--in the name of this or that revolutionary party and organization.

For this reason one must watch with utmost care the activities of these criminals in government and the bloodsucking Islamic elements. One should not overlook the fact that without bloodshed, slaughter, and subjecting free men to torture, the Islamic regime cannot and will not be able to continue its disgraceful life. For this reason, in the name of saving the country and people from the ominous domination of these traitors to the revolution, one must struggle within a united popular front against the usurpers of power, and for the establishment of a democratic national government.

CSO: 4640/370

PAKISTAN

TI LEADER URGES POSTPONING PARTYLESS ELECTIONS

Karache DAWN in English 30 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Quetta, Jan 29--Mr Khuda-i-Noor, Senior Vice-President of defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, Pakistan, has called for postponment of partyless elections being held in the country next month in order to pave the way for initiating any possible political talks between government and leadership of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

Such talks, he said, were essential with a view to bringing the country out of political stalemate and effecting smooth transfer of power to the representatives of the people.

Mr Khuda-i-Noor said in Quetta on Tuesday after his return from a tour of Punjab and NWFP, during which he called on his party chief, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan in Abbottabad, that the future of the country depended largely on how should political issues be analysed and efforts made to settle them satisfactorily. Political dialogue, he added, was the only solution for political problems presently confronting the country.

Defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal leader said that MRD which stood for restoration of democracy and upholding of 1973 Constitution, strictly adhered to its decision taken during Abbottabad meeting to boycott elections ordered to be held on non-party basis. He, however, stated that so far as MRD was concerned it would be always prepared to enter into dialogue for seeking solution to political problems politically, provided such talks were meaningful.

He said the government should assess the situation realistically in the larger interests of the country.

Mr Khuda-i-Noor said in the first instance, government should postpone next month's elections and express its willingness to hold talks with MRD if the 1979 elections could be postponed on the advice of some political leaders as repeatedly claimed by government, then why should the coming elections not be postponed when politicians in MRD and outside were opposing them, he asked?

CSO: 4600/256

PAKISTAN

JUI LEADER TALKS ABOUT ELECTION BOYCOTT

GF140928 Lahore JANG in Urdu 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[By Irshad A. Arif]

[Text] Lahore--Main Siraj Ahmaddin Puri, leader of the defunct Jamiat Ulema-e Islam [JUI] Party has said that if the government wants to resolve its differences with the politicians, it should agree to hold elections on a party basis and likewise the political parties should accept the condition of the prior registration of parties as essential for taking part in the elections. He said the 2-month period provided by the government for the reorganization and registration of parties was sufficient. Speaking to the JANG correspondent, Main Siraj Ahmaddin Puri said that despite the MRD's declared boycott of the elections, a great many members of the People's Party of Pakistan [PPP] were taking part in the upcoming elections. The feudalism members of the party consider the boycott political death.

Mr Puri said that according to Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, he was ready to file his nomination papers for the elections after reaching a certain agreement with the government, but the government defaulted and he did not do so. If the government had kept its faith, the boycott call by the MRD would have been ineffective. Mr Puri further disclosed that during the MRD meeting held in Abbotabad, Abdul Wali Khan of the National Democratic Party was unconcerned with the final MRD resolution and had opined that even if the 1973 constitution remained unrestored, the MRD must take part in the elections.

Mr Puri said that in Sind Province only the members of his JUI party stand fast on the decision to boycott the elections. He said the other parties could not claim such. As far as the PPP is concerned, Mr Puri said that with the exception of the top leaders, all former PPP members of the National Assembly and other low-ranking leaders are taking part in the elections. Mr Puri said that if the JUI had decided not to take part in the boycott it would have broken into several factions and its members in Sind Province would have broken from the party.

Mr Puri said that efforts to unite the two factions of JUI in Lahore would have succeeded if Maulana Abdullah Darkhwasti had been removed from the presidency of the JUI. He said that several members of his own group had assured him that

they would support his group in its demand for removal of Maulana Abdullah Darkhwasti from his post.

Mr Puri said that at present Maulana Ubaidullah Banuri was the provisional president of the JUI and that the party's council will elect a new president in its upcoming session in May. He said it remains to be seen who will be elected as the new president.

Mr Puri disclosed that several members of the JUI were in contact with the governor and were busy trying to keep the party divided in factions at the advice of the provisional governor.

CSO: 4656/80

PAKISTAN

NEW FACES SEEN LIKELY TO DOMINATE PARLIAMENT

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 85 Supplement p I

[Text] As the first phase of general elections--filing of nomination papers for National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies seats is over, a clearer picture is emerging of what will be the result of the forthcoming electoral exercise and how the future Parliament and Provincial Legislatures may look like.

Without prejudice to MRD, it may be safely said with a certain amount of confidence that parliamentary scenes after February 1985 will be dominated by a crop of new faces altogether. The MRD's call for renouncing the polls has only tended to encourage a set of new faces to look into the political mirror. The political parties and leaders who had monopolised the country's politics for over a decade and in some cases for more than that, are going to lose. They will be eliminated from the scene forever. The boycott is going to boomerang. A new era of politics is therefore going to usher in through the process of 'non-party' polls. Even if the elections were allowed to be held with political parties participating with an intent to carry the day, the election results would have been no different qualitatively from what would be the outcome of February polls for the number of leaders whom a majority of the electorate would not oblige even in the event of a party-based election is fairly large. Their past record is sufficient to keep the electorate away from polling stations and casting their ballot in favour of party leaders and their ranks.

That they oppose the Government on one pretext or the other is just not enough to raise the people's morale for their conduct during the past decade or so, has strengthened the people's conviction that they have no love for a democratic dispensation of Pakistan's affairs.

Under the circumstances when people have little faith in political parties and they are disillusioned with their behaviour it will not therefore be surprising if they view the coming elections as a blessing in disguise.

Irrespective of the MRD's views on the credibility or otherwise of the February polls, one thing which is going to vest the forthcoming elections with a crucial character is the resolve people are going to express collectively that Pakistan remains and continues to be a political State. On this vital

point hinges Pakistan's entire future. The elections have provided a breakthrough towards that end. By leaps and bounds the country will develop into a political state stronger than even highly developed polity in the world. People are no longer inclined to recognise the false, artificial or improvised divisions that spring from party, inter-party or intra party rancour, parochial or provincialistic animosities or the ones breeding on personality cult. We have to march ahead, and well in time to frustrate the designs of those foreign powers which have long set an eye on our region so that they could exploit such divisions, accord recognition to such artificial divergences and encroach upon our exclusive domain, as has been the lot of Afghans.

CSO: 4600/256

PAKISTAN

CODE OF ETHICS SPECIFIES CANDIDATES' QUALIFICATIONS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 85 Supplement p IV

[Text] INTRODUCTION: Candidates should bear in mind that the election in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is not an end in itself but a means to developing a society wherein people may lead their individual and collective lives in accordance with the dictates of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah. They should consent to their nomination considering that Allah alone is the Lord of the Universe and all executive authority is to be exercised as a sacred trust through elected representatives within the limits prescribed by the Holy Quran and the Sunnah. The establishment of an order based on justice and law is the basic responsibility of all citizens and more so of the candidates who are aspiring to be their chosen representatives. All election activity should therefore revolve round the basic concept of an Islamic state and be subservient to it.

The Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies (Elections) (Third Amendment) Order, 1985 lays down that a candidate to the National Assembly, Senate or a Provincial Assembly should -

--be of good character and not commonly be known as one who violates Islamic Injunctions;

--have adequate knowledge of Islamic teachings and practices obligatory duties prescribed by Islam as well as abstain from major sins;

--be sagacious, righteous and not profligate, and honest and ameen;

--not have been convicted for a crime involving moral turpitude or for giving false evidence; and

--not have worked against the integrity of the country or opposed the Ideology of Pakistan.

The above disqualifications shall not apply to a person who is a non-Muslim, but such a person shall have a good moral reputation.

GENERAL CONDUCT: The following are some points which all candidates should observe during their election campaign:-

--No candidate should indulge in activity which may lead to confrontation, hatred or tension among different groups or communities, religious, linguistic, tribal or otherwise.

--Expression of linguistic or communal differences should not be resorted to.

--Criticism, if any, of other candidates should be along health lines and confined only to their policies and programmes. It should not cover any aspect of their private lives and unverified or personal allegation and distortions in any form should be avoided.

--Mosques, churches, temples or other places of worship should not be used for canvassing or election propaganda.

--All candidates, their agents and workers should scrupulously avoid corrupt practices and offences under the election laws, such as bribing and intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, holding public meetings or taking out processions at places not permissible under the law or providing transport and conveyance facilities to voters to and from the polling station.

--Organising demonstrations or picketing by way of protest should not be resorted to under any circumstances.

--Candidates, their agents or workers should not obstruct or break up meetings organised by the rival candidates, nor interrupt speeches or prevent distribution of posters and leaflets of other candidates.

--The candidates, their agents or workers should not indulge in offering gifts or gratifications or inducing another to stand or not to stand as a candidate, or to withdraw or not to withdraw his candidature, or to vote or restrain anyone from voting.

--Candidates should not procure support of public servants.

--Any nomination paper of other candidate or any notice or document affixed under the authority of the Returning Officer should not be removed or destroyed.

--Candidates should dissuade their workers or sympathisers from destroying any ballot paper or any official mark on the ballot paper or putting into the ballot box anything other than the authorised ballot paper.

--Candidates should prevent the destruction or taking out of otherwise interference with any ballot box or ballot paper.

--Any material or any statement which may prejudice or in any manner affect the prospects of any candidate should not be made. Similarly, invoking social, communal or religious ostracism and ex-communication or divine displeasure or spiritual censure should not be allowed.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN: Election campaign should not be organised in violation of any restrictive or prohibitory orders in force.

--The candidates, their agents or workers should exercise control to the maximum extent possible over their campaign and disallow carrying or articles which may be put to misuse by undesirable elements during moments of campaign excitement.

CONDUCT OF POLLING DAY: All candidates, their agents or workers shall:-

- (i) co-operate with the officers on election duty and the law and order agencies to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and providing complete freedom to the voters to exercise their right of franchise without being subjected to any annoyance, coercion or obstruction.
- (ii) supply to their authorised workers, suitable badges or identity cards.
- (iii) issue identity slips, if any, to the voters which should not contain any symbol or name of the candidate.
- (iv) not allow unnecessary crowding near the polling stations or booths, so as to avoid confrontation and/or tension among workers and sympathisers of the candidates.
- (v) avoid any interference in the camps of other candidates.
- (vi) co-operate with the authorities in complying with the restrictions imposed on the plying of vehicles on the polling day.
- (vii) not interfere or attempt to interfere directly or indirectly with the free exercise of electoral right of any person.

ENTRY AT POLLING STATION: Excepting the voters no one without a valid pass from the competent authority shall enter the polling station.

COMPLAINTS: If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Presiding Officer, Assistant Returning Officer, Returning Officer or the District Returning Officer, as the case may be.

CSO: 4600/256

PAKISTAN

ELECTIONS: ISLAMIZATION PROCESS SAID MAJOR ISSUE

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 85 Supplement p I

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 22--Unswerving solidarity with the Islamisation process initiated by the present regime forms the fulcrum of election campaigns of an overwhelming majority of candidates contesting the forthcoming general elections in country.

Their commitment to Islam as well as to the introduction of Islamic order in Pakistan stems from the general climate created in the country by the Government's numerous Islamisation measures.

The reports suggest that the predominant idea behind the election campaigns is to reassure the voters of candidates abiding faith in Islam and their promise to implement in true letter and spirit the programmes of the present Government for the enforcement of complete Islamic system in Pakistan.

The banners hanging across the roads and the placards displayed at prominent places contain slogans in support of Islamisation process.

Besides, many candidates are distributing leaflets listing the various measures taken by the present regime for intensifying the Islamisation process.

In this connection they have extensively referred to the recent decision by the Government to switch-over to the Islamic banking system which they consider as a milestone reached in plans to Islamise the vital sphere of national economy.

Also highlighted in the leaflets is the fact that when completed at the end of the current financial year the new Islamic banking system will rid the country of the curse of "Riba" (interest) which is strictly prohibited by the Holy Quran. Not taking the interest-free economy in isolation they consider it as a part of numerous other noteworthy steps taken under President Gen Zia-ul-Haq's Islamisation programme. These include the Haddood laws, the Laws of Evidence, establishment of Federal Shariah Court, compulsorily teaching of diniyat in educational institutions, establishment of Islamic University and introduction of Iqamat-i-Salaat Movement.

The candidates believe that the Islamisation process also covers adoption of effective measures on Khatm-i-Nubuwaat (finality) of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). Another aspect being highlighted by the candidates is the introduction of facilities in the performance of Haj which is one of the five cardinal principles of Islamic faith.

One of the shining aspects of the Islamisation programme cited in the campaign is the introduction of Zakat and Ushr system which is considered a touchstone of an Islamic welfare State.

They recall that under the Zakat system, a huge sum of Rs 3,600 million was distributed across the country to the poor, the needy, the deserving and the destitutes.

This distribution of Zakat they believe has, indeed, revived the memories of the first Islamic welfare State established by Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) in Medina, 1400 years ago.

President Zia-ul-Haq's promise to give the Pakistani nation an Islamic democracy whose fundamentals will be in line with the principles of 'Mushawarat' and which is considered to be the cornerstone of an Islamic political system also finds reference at many places.

The candidates believe that the Islamic democracy will also be tuned to the Pakistani ideology.

This democracy will at once be meeting the requirements of Sharia and the contemporary needs. Among other things, it will inject decency and sanity in country's political system which has been missing in the past.

During the course of the door-to-door canvassing the candidates express the view that the pace of Islamisation was most likely to gain more momentum after coming into being of Majlis-i-Shoora when President Zia's noble task will be shared by elected representatives of the people.--APP

CSO: 4600/256

PAKISTAN

PLANNING MINISTER OFFERS MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMY

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29--The country's economy is expected to grow at an estimated rate of close to 10 percent during 1984-85, according to provisional projections made by the Planning Commission, which has completed a mid-year assessment for the current year.

Dr Mahbubul Haq, the Federal Planning Minister who briefed the press here on Tuesday however, stressed that the projections were "inflated," as these were computed on the basis of an exceptionally depressed growth rate in the previous year.

Nevertheless, during the first two years of the Sixth Plan, the annual growth target of 6.5 percent was likely to be exceeded and actual growth will average over 6.7 percent, he added.

Giving details of economic projections, Dr Haq said the gross domestic product will increase by 9.94 percent during 1984-85--12.6 percent increase in agriculture, 11.5 percent in industry and 8.1 percent in services.

He said the main physical targets of the Sixth Plan were likely to be met or exceeded during the first two years despite a "slight shortfall of 7 percent in the overall financial implementation of the Sixth Plan during this period."

Giving details, he said that a total expenditure of Rs 146 billion was planned during 1983-84 and 1985-85 according to the annual phasing of the 6th Plan regarding expenditure on ADP, special development programmes, public corporation and private investment. The actual expenditure, however, was estimated at Rs 136 billion, he added.

He described the balance of payments position of the country as "an area of particular difficulty during this period" and said exports and remittances were expected to show a shortfall of about 600 million dollars each in the two years compared to Plan forecasts.

To a large extent, this shortfall had been covered "by the country's ability to squeeze imports by about 900 million dollars below Plan targets, mainly in respect of POL and fertilizer, since domestic production has increased and international prices of oil has weakened," he said.

He conceded that the weaknesses in the economy continued to be "a low level of savings, inadequate resource mobilisation, strained balance of payments, overburdened public services, rapidly rising population growth and considerable backlog in education."

He said these areas will require considerably more attention in the next three years for which a priority programme was currently being formulated within the overall framework of the Sixth Plan.

Reviewing the performance of the economy, Dr Haq said in the public sector ADP, the Sixth Plan has been successful in increasing the expenditure on power by 39%, fuels 67%, mineral development 157%, health 37%, education 29%, science and technology 111%, and population welfare 49%.

Despite these substantial increases, expenditure on education, science and technology and power still lags behind Sixth Plan targets, since the Plan aims at covering a considerable backlog in a short period of time, he added.

He said that one of the most encouraging developments was the spectacular increase in expenditure on rural development. This expenditure has increased by 68 percent from Rs 513 crore in 1981-83 to Rs 860 crore in 1983-85.

As a result, he further said, during the first two years of the Plan, 5,335 additional villages will be electrified, 4,678 km of rural roads will be built, an additional population of 3.3 million in the rural areas will obtain clean drinking water, 726 new basic health units and 116 new rural health centres will be opened, 7,000 new primary schools will be established, and an additional 9,000 telephones will be provided to serve the rural areas.

This rapid pace of rural development, he stated, was bringing a decisive change in the countryside, "carrying a message of hope to many who had only marginally participated in the benefits of growth so far."

Listing some notable features of the Sixth Plan performance in the first two years, Dr Haq said that private investment to the tune of Rs 54 billion was likely to materialize, thus fulfilling 96% of the Plan target.

Development expenditure in Baluchistan, particularly on infrastructure of roads, irrigation and electricity, was increasing rapidly, showing an acceleration of 77% during this period, he added.

He said there has been a major increase in investment in oil and gas exploration and development, with the number of wells increasing from 57 in 1981-83 to 108 in 1983-85.

As a result, he said oil production had increased from 12,000 barrels a day to 28,000 barrels, and was meeting about one quarter of the country's total consumption requirements.

He said the substantial investment of Rs 23 billion made in power projects during the last four years is beginning to bear fruit after the necessary time-lag for the completion of these projects, so that an additional 1300 MW of electricity was likely to become available before June 1986, thus considerably easing the present energy shortage.

He said 150,000 additional small plots have been developed by the government to enable people to build their own houses. Immunization cover was extended to 15 million more children during 1983-85, compared to 1.8 million in 1981-83.

Sounding a note of caution, he said many problems still remain and require the urgent attention of the nation; therefore, "we should neither be euphoric nor complacent over the exceptionally high growth rate during the current year."

He said most public services, particularly hospitals, transport, telephones, water supply and education required major improvement. There was extensive load-shedding of electricity in the country which was disrupting industrial production and everyday life, he added.

In his assessment, there was constant pressure on prices and on the balance of payments. Despite all efforts, remittances continued to decline, and there "is a prospect of some more returnees seeking employment at home."

He said that many structural policy changes still awaited action, and "we have a long way to go in deregulation of the economy and in liberating it from unnecessary administrative controls."

Discussing aid flows, he said project disbursement has increased from 566 million dollars in 1983-84 to 950 million dollars in 1983-84 to 950 million dollars in 1984-85. Programme assistance was, however, declining.

He said no development project was suffering because of lack of aid, conceding however that a number of projects like waterlogging and salinity, education, urban road projects and research programmes in agriculture were being delayed due to shortage of counterpart rupee funds.

CSO: 4600/256

PAKISTAN

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER TRADE DEFICIT

GF091250 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial: "The Export-Import Gap"]

[Text] Addressing a group of exporters in Rawalpindi, the federal commerce secretary drew attention to the growing trade deficit and underlined the need for greater efforts to close it. The increasing trade gap is a phenomenon which has been persisting for the past several years, and threatens to deteriorate further during the current year. During 1983-84 the trade imbalance increased from the preceding year's Rs 33.57 billion to Rs 40.1 billion because imports rose at a faster rate than exports. The figures for the first half of 1984-85 show that we are headed for a bigger gap this year. The trade deficit for July-December 1984 is estimated at Rs 22.83 billion as compared to Rs 16.35 billion in the corresponding period of 1983. The reason for a bigger gap is a 6.5 percent fall in exports coupled with a 15 percent rise in imports. At this time we are likely to end up with the biggest ever deficit in our foreign trade at the end of the year.

A major element in the widening import-export gap is the existing world trade pattern. The prices of the primary and semi-processed goods exported by developing countries are increasingly going down, whereas those of the exports from the industrialised world continue to rise. The protectionist policy followed by the latter towards most Third World exports makes matters worse. But part of the responsibility also lies with the developing countries for they have not been able to change the composition of their exports in favour of manufactured items which show better price stability in the international market. No doubt the share of manufactured goods in Pakistan's exports has risen in the recent past, the bulk of our earnings still comes from primary goods exports like rice, cotton, yarn, fish, etc. In the export decline of the last six months it is the manufactured goods that have suffered most such as carpets, textile made-ups, petroleum products, guar products, synthetic textile fabrics, canvas and tarpaulin, etc. There is an urgent need not only to make a recovery in these items by strict quality control and price rationalisation but to add new, non-traditional goods to the list of exports. Destination-wise too our exports show a lack of enterprise. We mostly concentrate on Europe and the United States, whereas South America, an equally big market, is virtually untapped. The same goes for Africa. In exploring new markets the government can be of great assistance to exporters.

Apart from organising trade delegations, trade officers should be established in our embassies in Africa and South America which should carry out periodic surveys of the market there and send their findings home for the benefit of exporters. Given the difficulties that have arisen in the traditional markets, a new export strategy should be evolved under which special incentives should be offered to exporters to market non-traditional items and find outlets in the hitherto unexplored areas.

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